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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. STANSBURY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 1, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MELANIE A. STANSBURY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

TIME TO IMPOSE HARSH SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of representing Ukrainian Village in Chicago for over 10 years. In that time, we have become friends.

From my friends, I have learned about the beauty of Ukrainian history, culture, and the courage and strength of the Ukrainian people. In the past days, the whole world has seen that strength and courage.

Ukraine has bravely beaten back the onslaught of premeditated invasion by an evil autocratic leader. In response, there has been an outpouring of support from the entire world.

But I rise today, Madam Speaker, because our thoughts and prayers are not enough. Of course, those expressions of support matter. They hearten a resistance that is outgunned and outnumbered, and they tell the Kremlin that the world is watching. But when you are at war, you need more than just thoughts and prayers.

The people of Ukraine need us to use every tool at our disposal to help them repel Russia's invading forces. I know many Americans want our country to stay out of this conflict. We have endured 2 years of a pandemic that has taken thousands of lives and stretched pocketbooks to their breaking point. No one wants a conflict that could make our lives even more difficult.

I understand the desire to hunker down and wait for it to go away, but the message is this: You can turn off your TV and try to ignore the crisis, but that will not stop it from having an impact on you. While it may seem like the battlefields are a world away, the repercussions of this fight are on our doorstep.

The reality is that this conflict will worsen supply chain issues and increase inflationary pressures. And anyone who believes that Putin will not turn his attention to the rest of the world is badly mistaken. Indeed, he already has. He is already responsible for massive cyberattacks against the United States, and he interfered in two of our elections.

Let's remember, two generations of Americans fought for a new world order in which democracy prevailed over autocracy. For more than six decades, that victory has held. Now, it is threatened by Vladimir Putin.

We must ensure that the sacrifices of our forebears were not in vain. Surely,

other autocrats with desires to carve out expanded borders at the expense of sovereign democracies are watching the extent of Western resolve.

Ukrainian President Zelensky has begged the West for military aid. The U.S. must hear these pleas.

Thankfully, the response has begun. President Biden recently authorized an additional \$350 million defense aid package for Ukraine, bringing the total commitment of U.S. security assistance to \$1 billion this year alone. And NATO has begun to send weapons and equipment for the first time in history.

The European Union is shipping arms to Ukraine. Germany is supplying anti-tank weapons and missiles. Belgium, Poland, the Netherlands, and others have joined.

While we are inspired by the Ukrainian military's ability to hold firm, they need more help to keep the Russian onslaught at bay.

As co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, I have spent months calling for harsh sanctions against Russia, in addition to military aid for Ukraine. I am relieved to see many of these sanctions being imposed.

President Biden has led a historic response in which the West has presented a united front on behalf of Ukraine. Every wave of sanctions has come from a coalition of states: halting Nord Stream 2, imposing sanctions on Putin and his allies, and kicking a number of Russian banks out of the SWIFT system.

These are all important steps. Yet, more needs to be done.

I know some of our allies are hesitant to impose economic penalties that may harm the Russian people. Indeed, the Russian people are not the enemy. Like the Ukrainians, they have been dragged into this war through no choice of their own. Unfortunately, it is clear that Putin will not truly feel the consequences of his actions unless sanctions impact the entire nation of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Russia. It is time to impose the harshest sanctions available.

Some leaders have said that we should wait to impose more. My question to them is: If not now, when?

Ukrainians are dying in defense of their country. As we speak, their capital is surrounded by Russian forces; 500,000 Ukrainians have already fled their homes; soldiers have died; civilians have been killed; children have been murdered. The time for action is now.

Madam Speaker, I have visited Ukraine many times. I have seen the beauty of their fields, the blue of their sky. I have shaken hands with their people, heard their praise of democracy, and stood next to their leaders. The Ukrainian spirit I saw this weekend in rallies in Chicago is the same Ukrainian spirit I saw in Kyiv when I visited shortly after the Maidan.

Just 2 years ago, I met with the mayor of Kyiv right here in this building. We shared stories about the cities we represent, Chicago and Kyiv, sister cities. I promised during that meeting that the U.S. would always stand with Ukraine. We must live up to that promise.

Until we do, "Glory to Ukraine," "Slava Ukraini."

CARING FOR TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, kids and teens are facing a mental health crisis.

In Orange County, the hospitalization rate for children's mental illness and substance use disorder increased 88 percent between 2010 and 2019. Just last year, our children's hospital saw a 40 percent increase in mental health admissions in its emergency department.

On March 2, National Teen Mental Health Day, we recognize that caring for mental health is a part of raising and educating our kids. Communities should support children's well-being before mental health issues become crises.

In Orange County schools, like the ones my kids attend, that work has already begun. Using funds from the American Rescue Plan, the Irvine Unified School District has hired qualified mental health specialists. These professionals are dedicated resources for mental health recovery, and they allow counselors to focus on academic issues and peer relationships and teachers to focus on education.

Together with the Children's Hospital of Orange County, schools are building safe, comfortable places for students to heal. These retreats, called WellSpaces, are supported by mental health professionals and help students with the pressures of being kids.

WellSpaces are an innovative way to ease the transition to in-person learning after pandemic school closures and

to teach mental wellness skills. Just like with physical health, even the best prevention tactics do not eliminate emergencies or stop chronic illnesses.

For kids that need more care, CHOC offers world-class treatment. CHOC's intensive outpatient program keeps children living at home with their loved ones and allows them to remain in school. This healthcare delivery keeps kids connected to their families and their teachers. CHOC built a pediatric inpatient center to give younger kids the acute care that will help them have healthier teen years.

Mental healthcare providers are moving mountains to care for our kids. Thanks to the work of dedicated professionals and health centers like CHOC, raising a family in Orange County means our kids will have the resources to stay healthy, mentally and physically. But these resources mean little if families cannot afford them or if insurers refuse to cover them.

That is why I am making sure that big insurers follow the law and cover mental healthcare. I am proud that my bill, the Mental Health Parity Compliance Act, was signed into law in 2020. This legislation provides tools to enforce the requirement that insurance companies cover mental healthcare the same way they cover physical health.

Children need lawmakers to prioritize their well-being, including mental healthcare. This means supporting high-quality, innovative programs; increasing connections between families, schools, and healthcare providers; and closing loopholes used by insurance companies to deny families affordable mental healthcare. The youth mental health crisis will not improve without investment in care.

As an Orange County mom, I am proud that my community is leading the way in responding to the youth mental health crisis. Our younger generations are counting on us to help them toward health and wellness, and I am committed to working across the aisle to get that done.

2022 SOTU VIRTUAL GUEST NAZY SHABAZIAN

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, when my 1-year-old daughter, Betsy, went to daycare, I was worried. My family was in upheaval with a divorce, and Betsy was new to childcare. But when the door opened, Betsy was scooped up in a hug.

Irvine resident Nazy Shabazian provided Betsy with years of fun but firm guidance—painting, racing cars, dancing, and even snacking on Persian cucumbers.

A single parent herself, Nazy inspired me by successfully running her small business and raising two terrific daughters. During the pandemic, she adjusted to new health protocols, employee changes, and different parent schedules. Today, her business, Melody Child Care, is thriving—and so are the children in her care.

Nazy is an exemplar of the compassion and resilience that childcare pro-

viders and small businesses showed during the pandemic. I am proud to honor her as my 2022 State of the Union guest.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF REVEREND DARRELL DARLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of the Reverend Darrell Darling.

The loss of Darrell Darling hits us hard in Santa Cruz but also throughout the Central Coast, for Reverend Darling was that iconic mentor to all of us based on his longtime fight for civil rights, for equal rights, for peace, for justice, for nonviolence, and for his never-ending work for a more perfect Union.

Reverend Darling's fight began when he almost got kicked out of college for pressing its administration about its racist policies toward African Americans. Reverend Darling then went on to attend the Yale Seminary, where, in 1965, he marched with Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery and crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge with our former colleague, John Lewis.

In California, Reverend Darling served in five parishes for over 25 years. After that, Darrell and his wife, Karen, ran the Darling House Bed and Breakfast, where they hosted numerous events for our community and continued to mentor young activists and future public servants.

In fact, I will never forget the conversation that I had with Darrell, seated in his backyard, that inspired me to stand here in Congress, for it was that type of impression that the Reverend Darling had on me, on Santa Cruz, and on the fight for equality in our American democracy.

Madam Speaker, I not only recognize his legacy of service, but we, in Santa Cruz, acknowledge and appreciate that Reverend Darling is why many of us stand, fight, and serve today.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JORGE DAVID ALVARADO, JR.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss and the service of Salinas Police Officer Jorge David Alvarado, Jr.

Officer Alvarado was shot and killed in the line of duty while conducting a traffic stop on Friday night. Before I flew back here on Sunday, I visited the growing memorial for Officer Alvarado at the Salinas Police Department and joined in the mourning, the devastation, and the disbelief of his fiancée, his mother, his brethren in blue, and our entire community in Salinas.

Although the investigation of the incident is ongoing, the chief of police stated that Officer Alvarado stayed in the fight to the end and paid the ultimate price. As a result, the suspected cop killer is behind bars.

Jorge Alvarado understood what it means to give back to his community

and to his country with his time in the U.S. Army, as well as his 5 years as a police officer. Although we look back upon his commitment and actions as we mourn his loss, let us also look to Officer Alvarado's legacy of service as a way forward.

We must realize that our communities, no matter their makeup, rely on men and women who make up our police departments for order, for safety, and for our upward mobility.

□ 1015

Officer Alvarado did that by not only protecting and serving Salinas, but also Officer Alvarado got up every day and left his home knowing that his job was to run to the danger and not away from it.

Madam Speaker, Officer Jorge Alvarado ran to the danger on Friday night. Let's make sure that his service, that his sacrifice, are not in vain. Let's make sure that all of us support his family and support the men and women in uniform who strive to serve and protect so that we can make it home to our families and thrive in safe communities.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES: CROP INSURANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the next installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserves Congress' awareness and support.

If America is going to thrive, the people who feed, fuel, and clothe America must thrive, and the farm bill contains certain programs that have been critical to the success of agricultural producers in my district and the food security of our country. This week, I am talking about crop insurance.

I believe that crop insurance is one of the most important programs within the farm bill, and my conversation with producers, farm economists, and crop insurance agents have shaped my understanding of how critical it is to reauthorize the crop insurance title in full for 2023.

Crop insurance helps producers manage the risks that they face every day from weather, pests, disease, and market volatility; it has also been one of our Nation's best public-private partnership programs between the government, private industry, and agricultural producers. Crop insurance does two things: it benefits farmers and it benefits Americans. Crop insurance never replaces a good crop, but it lets producers stay in the game if disaster strikes and it helps to ensure that our country continues to be the most food-secure nation in the world.

I recently spoke with two Kansas farmers to get their thoughts on the importance of crop insurance. One of

them said to me, "I spend a lot of time thinking about the agronomic and economic strength of my farm. Crop insurance is the most important tool in my toolbox for ensuring my farm's economic strength in the face of my two biggest challenges: the weather and the global market. For small family operations like mine, banks want to see crop insurance before they will give you a line of credit because they want to know that you can remain resilient as an operation through times of volatility."

Another Kansas farmer told me, "The very first year I was not sure that I wanted to take out insurance. My mom convinced me to manage my risk and so I did. That year was extremely dry in the spring, and my first crop of wheat only made 12 bushels to the acre. If I didn't have crop insurance, that year would have put me in a deep hole, and I would have missed my equipment payments. I have never forgotten that, and I have carried crop insurance every year since."

There are countless stories just like these that testify to the importance of crop insurance, without which the government would be continually considering ad hoc disaster relief programs for farmers. Crop insurance is a market-based approach to risk management with a proven track record. The more we reduce the impact of risk and volatility in agriculture, the more food secure we become as a nation, and the more food secure we are, the stronger and freer we are.

I support whatever directly benefits farmers, ranchers, and ag producers in this country because they are the lifeblood of America. They keep us food secure, and therefore, free and self-determining as a nation. That is why I support crop insurance within Title XI, and why I am bringing awareness to it now, to ensure that this program remains strong in the 2023 farm bill.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe this Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, tonight the President will give his first State of the Union speech in this very Chamber. Unfortunately, our country is far weaker and has greatly declined in the 13½ months since President Biden took office.

His heavy-handed COVID mandates have decimated workforces and hit certain industries, like healthcare, especially hard. Crime is rising on our streets, which is a direct result of efforts to defund the police. Biden's open border policies will result in approximately 2 million apprehensions in a single year.

Our debt is approaching \$30 trillion with no end in sight. Inflation and the rising cost of practically everything

Americans need to live is wreaking havoc on our people, especially those on fixed incomes. Supply chains are in disarray.

The administration's needless war on domestic oil and gas production has led to dramatic increases at the pump and has caused the United States to once again, unfortunately, be a net oil importer.

President Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan cost American lives and weakened our standing in the world. This weakness then emboldened Russia and resulted in Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and all the while we are doing far too little to stand up to China.

The list goes on and on. America badly needs its President to quickly and dramatically reverse course so that the state of our Union is something that we can all be proud of and that will once again be strong.

URGENCY TO PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the eve of President Biden's State of the Union speech to strongly urge Congress to pass immigration reform to boost our economy, grow our GDP, and create jobs across the country.

Right now, our economy is roaring back after the depths of a global pandemic, and workers and families are still feeling the effects. As we continue this recovery and work to grow our economy, lower costs, and create jobs, it is now more crucial than ever that we secure a pathway to citizenship for the millions of hardworking, immigrant, essential workers across the country who contribute to our economy every day.

We must secure a pathway to citizenship for the farmworkers and meatpackers who feed America, the construction workers who build American cities, the restaurant and hotel workers who serve our families, and the nurses, doctors, and healthcare workers who have cared for us in this public health crisis. Now is the time to deliver on immigration reform to boost our economy and keep families together.

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus join me in this fight to urgently act. That is why we have worked tirelessly with the Biden administration to enact policy changes to build a more efficient, just, fair, and humane immigration system that reflects our American values.

We have pursued an all-of-the-above and any-which-way approach to achieving immigration reform using every tool at our disposal to secure a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, farmworkers, TPS holders, and essential workers.

In the House, CHC members have introduced and passed meaningful bipartisan bills to achieve that goal. As the proud son of farmworkers, I was thrilled when Democrats, Republicans, growers, and workers came together to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. This bipartisan bill would give farmworkers and their families a pathway to citizenship.

Doing so would stabilize our workforce and the price of our food, making your produce, my produce, and everybody's produce available at a reasonable cost. The CHC also led efforts to pass the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act to allow DACA, temporary protected status, and deferred enforced departure beneficiaries to earn permanent residence and continue contributing to our workforce and economy.

CHC, with House Democrats, delivered. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Senate blocked these commonsense bills that would benefit all Americans and help keep families together. However, we didn't let their refusal to do what is right for this country and American families stand in the way of our work to enact positive change.

That is why the CHC led efforts to pass immigration reform through the Build Back Better Act and provide a much-needed pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, essential workers, and farmworkers, and meaningful protections and work permits. Out of the House, we passed significant reforms to address the historic labor shortages our Nation faces, grow our GDP, and fight rising costs for American families.

Now, with these much-needed provisions awaiting consideration in the Senate, I call on my Senate colleagues to take up the Build Back Better Act without delay and pass it with a pathway to citizenship. I call on the Senate to pass the American Dream and Promise Act. I call on the Senate to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

We must urgently pass immigration reform right now. We will work with the administration to achieve positive, meaningful immigration changes. It is our duty to our Nation to give hard-working, immigrant, essential workers the opportunity to stay in the country that they call home.

Our Nation's immigrants are professionals, entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, and essential workers who make America stronger. We are at our strongest when we embrace our immigrant communities.

Later tonight, during President Biden's State of the Union address, CHC members will be virtually joined by Dreamers from our districts to highlight their contributions to our country, their home. Dreamers are part of our efforts to rebuild and to recover. They are our future and our constant inspiration in this fight.

Tonight, I am proud to be joined by Alma from Thermal, California, my constituent, to say: "You are not forgotten." "No son olvidados."

You are home.

MR. PUTIN'S IMMORAL WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise with a very heavy heart and an overwhelming sense of sadness, anguish, and anger that should, however, be utilized to save lives.

I traveled with the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe with my colleagues, Congressmen Cohen, Hudson, Wilson, Aderholt, and Veasey. We started out, most of us, on Sunday with the intent to go into the Ukraine region, and we did, all with optimism that this war would not be, that we could engage in discussions with parliamentarians and heads of state and that Putin would listen to reason of the 21st century.

Upon arriving, we unfortunately heard the distorted, confused, and absolutely rejected message of the Soviet Union, and how the history suggests that countries like Ukraine were not independent, they were simply part of the old Soviet Union.

Madam Speaker, you are aware of the fact that generations now living in democratic countries like Lithuania have no knowledge of the old Soviet Union. Congratulations to leaders like Gorbachev and Yeltsin who believed that their duty was to bring Russia into the 21st century.

We remember the words of Ronald Reagan: Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall. How in the world can Putin now come to represent that he, riding in on a fancy horse, maybe even shirtless, is going to now dominate violently, bringing these countries to their knees and for them to reject what they have come to love, and that is democracy?

We continued in discussions—the Lithuanian Prime Minister, the Lithuanian President, the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, and many others—that country, right in the eye of the storm, right in the potential of being one of those victims, yet Lithuania is a member of NATO protected by Article 5. But we thought because of their fears and their concerns, because of their sensitivity of the reckless and uncontrolled posture of Putin, who knows where he would go, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, countries that are standing separately.

He has already, as we were fully briefed, dominated and taken over—it doesn't exist. I want the President of Belarus to understand that. I hope that he could stand up, but there were already 30,000 to 40,000 Russia troops in his country bordering on Lithuania.

□ 1030

Even with that, we wanted to, as we have heard, give peace a chance and continue to press for peace even to the point where we went to the meeting where Finland, Sweden, France, Great Britain, Russia, and Ukraine were all

there. We went to sit down at the peace table to try and argue. We arrived on Wednesday, and as everyone knows, in the late hours, early morning, from Wednesday to Thursday, Putin designed his own war. No vote by the Russian people. He designed a purposeless, senseless, and immoral war.

I began to articulate how we should move quickly, financial sanctions that should immediately bring them to their knees, the SWIFT account being denied. On Friday and Saturday I asked for that. But I think the real issue is they should be brought to their knees. And then last Saturday I said that he should be charged as a war criminal. I am glad that the world criminal court, The Hague, is now opening an investigation on this desperate terrorizer, this killer.

We cannot tolerate this kind of behavior. He indicated to the world that this was an operational war: I am going to be selective, I am not going after civilians.

Madam Speaker, to the Nation and to the world: this is a face of a destroyed building reminiscent of World War II when civilian places were bombed and when thousands were lost. There is a person standing here. And this is dead children.

Mr. Putin is a killer and a terrorist. And these are terrorists that are in Ukraine. We ask the world to continue to stand united, NATO and others, to be able to bring Putin to his needs financially and economically and as well on the world stage. He should be tried as a criminal. We need this war to end in a cease-fire.

Madam Speaker, President Zelensky said: We are here.

We stand with him. Ukraine is here. Glory to Ukraine.

MARDI GRAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Down in New Orleans where the blues were born, it takes a cool cat to blow a horn.

Down in LaSalle and Rampart Street, it is Mardi Gras combo with a mambo beat.

Today is Mardi Gras, and as a New Orleanian, this is a special time for our city and our region. It is a joyous time culminating today in the dizzying, colorful explosion that is Mardi Gras Day—Fat Tuesday. Everywhere else, it is just a Tuesday, but in Louisiana it is Mardi Gras—a time for merriment, a time for joy, a time to party, and recognize the culture that makes New Orleans so unique and makes Louisiana so special.

It is a one-of-a-kind experience. Some might call this biased, but objectively I think everyone should enjoy and experience Mardi Gras.

Today, people from all over the world come together, krewes of all stripes and backgrounds work to pull off a day like none other.

After the challenges of isolation and the pandemic, this year's Mardi Gras is a chance for us to reunite, reconnect, and celebrate what truly makes New Orleans, New Orleans—the love, the peace, the culture, and the energy of its people.

While I am in D.C. for House business and for the President's State of the Union address, my heart is at home as the Zulu float turns on Jackson Avenue and the oceans of people scream and yell: Throw me something, mister. Our hearts are full of joy.

My heart is handing out coconuts at the Zulu parade as we speak, although I am physically in Washington, D.C.

People attending balls, costuming, and letting everyone be themselves is what Mardi Gras is all about. It is a time of love, a time of expression, and a time of cultural explosion.

Happy Mardi Gras to one, happy Mardi Gras to all, have a safe and happy Mardi Gras. Enjoy the beautiful weather.

For all of you watching, I invite you all to come to Louisiana, have a slice, have a piece of Mardi Gras. No matter where you are or where you are from, let's show each other some love this season.

And as we say in Louisiana: *Laissez les bon temps rouler*.

AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of the most forceful and significant pieces of leverage on the world stage that President Biden surrendered on his first day in office: America's energy independence.

Later today the President will brazenly attempt to rewrite history by hailing his so-called leadership amidst the horrific and heartbreaking war unfolding in Ukraine while ignoring the self-inflicted crises he has imposed on the American people. Yet no amount of spin, lies, or deflection can hide the damage that Biden has done to our great country—particularly through his failed, destructive, and reckless energy policies.

On day one he killed the Keystone XL pipeline destroying 11,000 American jobs and delivering a crushing blow to domestic energy production. Shortly after, President Biden infamously green-lit the Nord Stream 2 pipeline—handing Vladimir Putin a victory long before his Russian troops ever stepped foot into Ukraine.

Throughout the first year of Biden's Presidency, the current administration embarrassingly begged OPEC to produce more oil while stalling and even halting oil and gas permits here in the United States.

To further weaken our position on the world stage, President Biden withdrew U.S. support for beneficial energy projects around the world, increasing

our dependence, as well as our allies' dependence, on foreign adversaries. President Biden removed U.S. support from the Eastern Mediterranean gas pipeline that would have connected Israel's offshore gas reserves to Europe.

In spite of lauding this project as a new opportunity and a geopolitical win-win back in 2014 when Biden was Vice President, now President Biden claims his priorities lie with moving away from fossil fuels in order to promote green energy and renewables. Some may believe President Biden simply had a change of heart, but this would be naive. Instead, he has dangerously appeased the far-left flank of his party by fully embracing Green New Deal garbage.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker. It is abundantly clear that energy independence is national security. And through every solitary energy policy, the Biden administration has chipped away at our ability to independently fuel our Nation, thereby damaging our national security.

Due to President Trump's powerful efforts, the United States was recently energy independent just a year ago. Yet thanks to President Biden's utopian Green New Deal fantasies, we have lost our energy independence. So rather than strengthening domestic production by having every energy industry firing on all cylinders, we are left purchasing oil and gas from other countries, like Russia. Yes, Russia.

In fact, the United States buys over 635,000 barrels of oil every day at over \$103 per barrel. That is over \$65 million every solitary day that we are sending to Russia filling Putin's war coffers in the process. I stand with patriots boycotting Russian vodka, pouring it out all over the streets, supporting the Ukrainian people.

But why on Earth are we not boycotting Russian energy to put America first and really hit Russia where it hurts: in the pocketbook?

Mr. President, we must immediately cease purchasing Russian oil and fully unleash domestic energy production.

Ahead of his State of the Union Address tonight, I urge President Biden to rescind existing regulations and reverse harmful executive orders that undermine our energy independence. Restore oil and gas production by swiftly authorizing vital leases and permits, and abandoned radical climate rules and policies that obstruct our ability to have domestic energy production roaring at full throttle.

Unfortunately, based on the President's most recent record, I fully expect him to double down on his disastrous energy agenda. Just this weekend, Press Secretary Jen Psaki comically claimed that we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, on oil in general, and we need to look at other ways of having energy in our country and others.

As a military veteran, I can assure the White House that renewable resources are meaningless in fueling

military equipment on the battlefield and winning a war.

To no one's surprise, recent reports claim President Biden will tout his energy policies tonight and request this body to deliver legislation to achieve so-called clean energy that promotes climate action. What a disappointment.

There is still time for the President to cease this capitulation to the far left, stop putting \$65 million every day into Vladimir Putin's war chest, and put Americans first by fully empowering and unleashing domestic energy production.

CELEBRATING THE ATHLETES FROM BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, on February 6, Bearden High School's dance team brought home another national championship from the Universal Dance Association's National Dance Team championship. The team earned its third national championship in the large varsity Game Day Division, the sixth in team history.

Routines in the Game Day Division are focused on school spirit and crowd engagement. Teamwork is crucial in these choreographed competitions, and athletes must be on the same page if they want to win. Bearden's dance team won this competition by working together and perfecting a motivating, effective routine during Bearden Bulldog athletic competitions.

Members of this national championship winning team are Abigail Abrams, Olivia Roddy, Jordan James, Ella Klenck, Julie Horn, Maddie Taylor, Cadance Eastman, Kenzie Bankes, Mallory Simpson, Ruby Fisher, Leah Cho, Ella McLaughlin, Marian Mitchell, Mallory Haskins, Eli Keziah, Lana Nelson, Avery Duncanson, and Reagan Honeycutt.

The team's leadership includes head coach Hannah Keathley, assistant coaches Natalie Adkins and Sydney Schriver, technical coach Kathryn Brasfield, choreographer Katie Fear Lane, and team sponsor and high school teacher Rebecca Nutter.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate this group of athletes from Bearden High School, my alma mater. Our community is proud of your continued success on the national stage.

And go Bulldogs.

Recognizing Tennessee Volunteers Legend Gus Manning

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize somebody who really needs no recognition at all but is somebody who is very dear to me. He is a good friend of mine. He is a Tennessee Volunteer legend, Gus Manning. He is turning 99 this July, and I wanted to take a few moments to recognize Gus' life and distinguished career here on the House floor.

Gus is a lifelong Knoxville. He graduated from Rule High School, the Fighting Golden Bears, and then served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. After he completed serving his country in the Marine Corps he decided to become a Tennessee Volunteer, and that journey began.

A tremendously athletic individual, Gus walked onto UT's football team in 1947 and played baseball for the Volunteers. He graduated from Tennessee in 1950 but returned to UT in 1951 when the athletic director, General Robert Neyland, hired him to be the sports information director for Volunteer athletics. This was the beginning of Gus' nearly half-century long professional career with UT's athletic department.

Outside of the athletic department, Gus co-hosted Vol Sports Report on WIVK. He also served as president of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Southeastern Conference Sports Information Directors, and the Southeastern Conference Business Managers.

From 1951 to 2003, Gus attended 608 consecutive Tennessee Volunteers football games. His dedication to the University of Tennessee's athletic program earned him inductions into halls of fame and awards from various organizations. His greatest recognition came in 2015, when Gate 16 at Neyland Stadium was renamed Gus Manning Gate. It is fitting that an individual who dedicated so much of his life to the football teams that play in that stadium is now a part of it forever.

I thank Gus for continuing to be such a great representative of the University of Tennessee and its athletic programs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In You, O Lord, may all seek refuge. Incline Your ear to those who desperately cry to You as they flee the devastation surrounding them and rescue them speedily from their distress.

Be the rock of refuge for all who seek shelter. Be a strong fortress behind which they may find safety and security.

Loving God, would that we trust in You and not in worthless idols of power

and control. Turn not Your face from us.

You have seen the affliction of the people who call on Your name; heed now and save them from unimagined adversity.

Be gracious, O Lord, to those who are anguished, whose eyes are swollen with the grief of lives lost; whose souls are broken in fear of the terror threatening their loved ones left behind.

Give us the courage to hold fast to You, our God. Embrace these times in Your mercy; deliver the innocent from the hands of their enemies. Save the blameless from their persecutors.

Let Your face shine upon those who need, this day, the light of Your countenance. Save them by the strength of Your steadfast love.

We offer this prayer for our world this day, in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VALADAO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lifted many mask wearing mandates due to the positive trends in the fight against COVID-19. Effective today, Canada's Ontario Ministry of Health is removing capacity limits and vaccination requirements for all settings.

Increased vaccination rates in the United States, Canada, and around the world show that communities who have done the right thing and followed the science can return to a watchful sense of normalcy.

Today, I am calling on the United States and Canadian Governments to follow the science-based directives of their health agencies and to fully reopen the Canadian border to travelers without COVID restrictions.

Two years ago, the border between the United States and Canada closed with devastating consequences for both countries, economically and emotionally. Incredible progress has been made in the fight against COVID. It is time to move the remaining disjointed and prohibitive restrictions at the U.S. and Canadian borders.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

(Mr. LATURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the brave men and women across Ukraine fighting for their freedom and standing strong against Vladimir Putin and his gang of thugs. As our adversaries look on, it is time our Nation's leaders step up on the world stage and restore peace through American strength and power.

Make no mistake. This unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is an attack on democracy, and Russia must be held accountable for their actions. The United States must immediately impose additional crippling economic sanctions against Putin and provide further military and humanitarian aid to the Ukraine fighting forces.

Most importantly, it is vital that we end our Nation's reliance on Russia's energy industry by unleashing domestic energy production right here in the United States. Energy security is national security.

I continue to be inspired by the countless acts of bravery and leadership by President Zelensky and his people as they fight for their freedom and independence. May God give strength and comfort to the people of Ukraine.

HONORING DR. PAUL FARMER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brilliant doctor and a pioneer of global health, Dr. Paul Farmer, who sadly passed away last week.

Dr. Farmer dedicated his entire life to improving the lives of others.

As co-founder of Partners in Health alongside Dr. Jim Yong Kim and Ophelia Dahl, he forever altered our understanding of the fight against global poverty and how to care for those in need.

In his mission, "To Repair the World," that is his book, he brought his unique and innovative brand of compassionate care to fight HIV in Haiti, tuberculosis in Peru, Ebola in Sierra Leone, to name just a few, while helping transform public health outcomes in Rwanda.

At the Harvard Medical School, he inspired a generation of aspiring doctors to pursue careers in global health.

Personally, it was a privilege to see his saintly work firsthand on our congressional delegation visit to Haiti in

2015 after the earthquake. We visited one of his initiatives to address the needs of orphan children.

May it be a comfort to his wife, Didi, and their three children that Congress, the country, and the world join them in mourning this visionary hero.

ADDRESSING CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Bureau of Reclamation announced that farmers in the Central Valley would receive none of the water contracted through the Federally managed Central Valley Project.

The lack of any allocation at all is alarming news to the communities that have continued to suffer from issues like the ongoing supply chain crisis. Once again, Central Valley farmers are being asked to do more with less.

My constituents are the farmers who feed the world, and they are resilient. But the fact remains that our farms will not survive without a reliable water supply for south-of-Delta agriculture.

Meanwhile, the House majority refuses to consider my bill, the RENEW WIN Act, which would immediately bring water to these fields and save these farms.

These water allocations must reflect the needs of the agriculture community which is the backbone of the Central Valley economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take up my legislation to address California's drought.

RECOGNIZING TOMMY VITOLO

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my guest for this year's State of the Union address, Massachusetts State Representative Tommy Vitolo of the 15th Norfolk District.

Over the past year, we have strived with the Biden agenda to empower States and localities to use Federal funds as they felt best when securing historic relief to rebuild our economy coming out of the pandemic. This strategy has worked because of great partners at the State and local level like Representative Vitolo.

From the passage of the American Rescue Plan to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Democratic agenda is helping people in Massachusetts and beyond. Tommy was a key partner in helping to get relief for essential workers, bringing attention to critical transportation projects, and supporting job growth. I look forward to hosting him as my virtual guest this evening, and to our continued partner-

ship delivering results to the Bay State with the Biden agenda.

PUTIN'S WAR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I was grateful, as the ranking member of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to address the Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna, Austria. Our delegation was ably led by Co-Chair STEVE COHEN.

The bipartisan United States delegation of Democrats and Republicans being transatlantic, with our valued European and Indo-Pacific allies, have been unintentionally united about the Putin war of mass murder in Ukraine, violating the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. Here, we want to emphasize the devastating human cost of the Putin war against the families of Ukraine, isolating Russia and Belarus from the modern world.

I was grateful over the years to have visited Russia a number of times where I was so impressed by the talented citizens. Today, they are being betrayed by Putin in his obsession for oil, money, and power. Two months ago, I visited Kyiv and it is horrifying to know of the attacks.

Sadly, in Belarus, dictator Lukashenko has become a puppet facilitating the Putin war. It is inspiring that the legal President of Belarus, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, would have her first loyalty to the people of Belarus, not the war criminal, Putin.

In conclusion, God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live President Volodymyr Zelensky.

RECOGNIZING LIZ BOLHOUSE

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liz Bolhouse, a pediatric ICU nurse back home in Las Vegas. Tonight, President Biden will address this Congress and the Nation in the State of the Union address, and Liz is my guest.

While we continue to recover from this pandemic, let's reflect on what we have done. We have put over 500 million shots in arms of Americans, our kids are back in school, our economy is getting back on track, and a record-breaking 6.7 million jobs were created in the President's first year.

It is hardworking Americans in southern Nevada, and all across this Nation, who are the true heroes in this recovery. Liz is one of those heroes. Liz has lived and worked in Nevada for 22 years as a nurse. It goes without saying that these have been two of the hardest years in all of our lives, but these 2 years have brought out the best in our

dedicated and selfless healthcare heroes, including Liz, and the hundreds of Nevada nurses she represents as the SEIU Local 1107 chief nursing steward.

I thank Liz and I thank every nurse back home and across this great Nation for your hard work and dedication in keeping our communities healthy and safe.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM HAGEDORN

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Representative Jim Hagedorn. I had the privilege of working with Jim in D.C., and the opportunity to spend time with him in his district where I know he was well-loved.

Jim was a tireless advocate on behalf of our Nation's farmers, ranchers, producers, and foresters, and he never wavered in his commitment to serving the great people of Minnesota's First District.

Jim was a warrior on the Ag Committee questioning and confronting the administration when he perceived policies were hurting those families that work hard every day to provide us food and fiber. I consider Jim a dear friend and his passing a tragic loss.

His contagious personality and cheerful sense of humor will be missed on the committee and in the Halls of Congress for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, scripture in Thessalonians 4:13-18 instructs us with these words, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope."

Jim Hagedorn lived his life dedicated in service to this Nation in a manner that brought hope to so many. Let us find hope having known Jim Hagedorn.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY ALEXANDER FOR HIS BRAVERY

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my young constituents, Anthony Alexander, a student at Academy Park High School, for his recent bravery in a moment of crisis.

Last week, on an unseasonably warm winter day, Anthony was riding his bike with friends in Collingdale Park when he heard cries for help. A frozen pond had given way and three younger children had fallen through the ice.

As the children panicked, 16-year-old Anthony sprang into action. He dialed 911 and then ran to the water's edge and used a stick to help pull the children to safety. He then jumped into the freezing pond to reach the third child.

Police Sergeant Pat Kilroy arrived on the scene and helped both of them out.

So many of us wonder what we would do when faced with an emergency. Anthony's quick thinking and selfless action at Collingdale Park prevented a tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join members of our community in recognizing Anthony Alexander as a local hero.

□ 1215

MR. PUTIN'S WAR

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join my colleague, Representative THOMPSON, in remembering and feeling very blessed to have known Jim Hagedorn, our colleague and friend, and I pray for his family.

Mr. Speaker, on this day we need to discuss the fact that Vladimir Putin is absolutely stunned by the courage and resolve of the Ukrainian people. After 6 to 7 days of fighting, Ukraine controls most of its major cities including the city that my family is from, Lviv. The Russian people are protesting their leader's unprovoked aggression seeing, as the world sees, that this is Putin's war alone.

We must do more. Our crippling sanctions are strongly hurting the Russian economy. But, Mr. Speaker, we must recognize this conflict is where energy is both the carrot and the stick. We must hit Putin where it hurts, by cutting off imports of Russian oil to the United States, unleashing U.S. energy, and ensuring Nord Stream 2 never goes into effect.

Putin can't be trusted. This is understood. His prior interest in diplomacy was insincere. We must show leadership. We must provide the weapons that, by the way, were provided by the Ukrainian Parliament.

HONORING SUNNY BRYANT FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 8-year-old Sunny Bryant from Houston, Texas.

Some hometown heroes, like Sunny Bryant, might be too young to work and are certainly too young to even have a driver's license, but they inspire millions of people across our Nation.

Sunny Bryant is a transgender girl who, like her transgender community, is currently experiencing fear and anxiety due to politically motivated attacks sparked by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and his anti-trans actions.

Governor Abbott recently directed State officials to investigate parents who support their trans children with

gender-affirming healthcare, describing it as child abuse. This measure not only goes against the opinions of medical experts, but it intentionally strikes fear in the transgender community for political gain. This is appalling.

But like hometown heroes across the country, Sunny is strong and resilient—and she has got some missing teeth as you can see in the photo, Mr. Speaker.

Sunny Bryant, from my home district in Texas, will be my virtual State of the Union guest. I am truly honored that she will be joining me today.

CALIFORNIA WATER ALLOCATION

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week, Federal officials announced California water allocations for water year 2022—this one—this spring right now where growers are getting ready to plant—or would be.

Despite their hard work as growers, their productivity and responsibility of feeding the rest of the Nation being on their shoulders, they were put dead last in line for water allocations. That is right. Behind even the mindless dumping of freshwater into our oceans to save nonexistent fish.

Even though California farmers produce most of the Nation's fruit, nut, and vegetable crops, many received zero percent of their allocation—this at a time of many bare store shelves in the grocery stores, this time of crisis of an international proportion where we should be making our own energy and our own food crops.

We are going to become more reliant on imported food if we don't grow this 2022 crop year because we are growing next year's crop right now—including on my rice farm at home.

These water allocations will indeed have drastic consequences for the farmers, their employees, and the small towns that they populate all up and down California and indeed other States as well.

So growers are at their wit's end. We need President Biden and others to re-allocate and prioritize water for farmers, not for fish.

PROTECTING LGBTQ RIGHTS ABROAD

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, reports to Congress are not just for us. They are a tool for Americans to hold our government accountable.

I joined Republicans and Democrats to pass the Global Respect Act to require the White House and State Department to name foreign individuals who violate the human rights of

LGBTQ people. People put on this list would be ineligible for visas to enter into the United States.

This report of human rights violations should not fit on some desk in Washington, D.C. gathering dust. My amendment to the Global Respect Act gives every American the opportunity to read the report on protecting LGBTQ rights abroad.

The public, our partners, and our allies need to see that the U.S. Government is holding human rights abusers accountable. My amendment will require a published report and will improve transparency and accountability.

UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are under horrific siege. Ukraine's valiant President Volodymyr Zelensky and the courageous Ukrainian forces and its people are defending their homeland in what truly is a battle of David versus Goliath.

Putin is unleashing hell on Earth through cluster bombs and vacuum bombs on innocent civilians targeting women, children, and the elderly, and striking hospitals and orphanages in a murderous rampage.

This is the work of war criminals. But more war is not the answer. The top leaders of every nation in our world—not just their ambassadors but every leader of every nation—this week must create an historic surge of diplomacy to engage with Vladimir Putin to end this massacre.

Work it out. Work it out.

Please stop the killing. Stop the fear. Stop the massacre. Build forward. Invite Vladimir Putin toward a new world of peace and opportunity for all in that damaged and struggling part of our beleaguered world.

DEMOCRATS ARE BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Democrats are building a better America.

Last year we passed the American Rescue Plan. That helped get our economy back on track. We have created in America approximately 7 million jobs in the last 12 months. That is a record in U.S. history. We are also experiencing very high economic growth. Jobs are up, wages are up, and unemployment is down.

We then followed it up with an infrastructure law that is going to rebuild roads, bridges, and highways. It is going to put broadband internet everywhere from rural areas to inner cities. It is going to get lead out of our water, and it is going to put EV charging stations across America.

What are Republicans doing?

I know two sitting Republican Members went to a White nationalist conference a few days ago.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3967, HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 950 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 950

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-33, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their respective designees; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 4. All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUIZ). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I just want to state what I think we are all feeling here today, and that is that our prayers are with the Ukrainian people during this very perilous time.

I want to acknowledge the unity displayed in the yesterday afternoon Rules Committee meeting when Democrats and Republicans came together and with one voice condemned Vladimir Putin's blatant aggression, his brutality, and the horrific actions the Russian state is now taking against the people of Ukraine. It was almost as if there was no distinction between political parties, and I think that is as it should be because Vladimir Putin is not a genius, as some have said, and he is not smart. He is a bully. He is a dictator.

I cochair the Human Rights Commission in Congress. We have done countless hearings on his brutality against the Russian people. He jails people he disagrees with, he kills people he disagrees with, and he tortures people he disagrees with. He truly is an international pariah.

After this latest action, he will be in the same category as Kim Jong-un in North Korea.

So I just want to acknowledge the unity yesterday in the Rules Committee, and I want my Republican friends to know how grateful I was to have us all speak as one, especially during this difficult time. I know it is important not just for the Ukrainian people but in Russia that we are speaking as one because when people start to make excuses for the Russian dictator or start to find ways to praise him, that gets played on Russian TV and exaggerated in a way to indicate that somehow we are not unified here when I believe that we are.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 950, providing for consideration of H.R. 3967, the Honoring Our PACT Act, under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairman TAKANO, provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and makes in order 28 amendments. Lastly, the rule provides en

bloc authority to Chairman TAKANO and provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, today we are here to stand up for our veterans. For a long time now, more and more have been speaking out—pleading—to be taken seriously about the health impacts of the toxic chemicals they dealt with while serving our country.

Many encountered water at military bases that were contaminated with toxins, like harmful forever chemicals. They breathed in toxic fumes at burn pits where jet fuel was used to incinerate things like paint, petroleum, and plastic. And they were exposed with radiation when being tasked to clean up after nuclear tests, without being given the proper safety equipment.

These were duties we demanded of them. And as a result, many veterans have been left to suffer with severe health challenges like cancers, infertility, and respiratory conditions. Many more have died, and others are just too sick to work.

□ 1230

We aren't talking about just a few people here, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about millions and millions of veterans who answered the call to serve.

When they asked us to take care of them, for too long, they were just brushed aside not just by Congress but also by the Department of Defense, year after year after year.

They were told the science wasn't clear. And they were told that providing the medical care that they needed and that they earned was just too high.

Maybe some bureaucrat somewhere viewed denying veterans' disability claims as an exercise in frugality. Maybe drowning them in paperwork and setting an unreasonably high bar to get benefits just became the norm. I don't know.

But that finally ends here and now, Mr. Speaker. The legislation included in this rule will cut the burdensome red tape. It will streamline the VA's review process, and it will get veterans exposed to toxins the care that they so badly need.

H.R. 3967 tasks the VA with providing standardized trainings to better handle these claims, and it requires them to conduct outreach and provide resources to veterans exposed to deadly chemicals.

Thanks to this bill, no longer will the burden to prove toxic exposure be placed on veterans themselves. And it is about damn time, Mr. Speaker.

If this bill becomes law, it will help an estimated 1.4 million veterans by fiscal year 2031. That is something that we should all be proud of.

The Honoring our PACT Act recognizes that just thanking our veterans for their service isn't enough. We must back up those words with action.

Some may suggest that we should just maintain the status quo or make the scope of this bill much, much smaller. Let me remind them that Congress made the choice to spend trillions

of dollars over the last 20 years on sending our servicemembers into harm's way. Those decisions came at a cost of more than \$6 trillion. That is trillion with a T.

How in the world, Mr. Speaker, can anyone justify spending trillions of dollars on sending servicemembers to fight abroad just to nickel and dime them on healthcare costs once they return home? That is unconscionable.

Taking care of toxic-exposed veterans is a cost of war, period. If anyone here has reservations about paying it, they should think long and hard before calling for our servicemembers to fight in another conflict halfway around the world.

Our veterans put their lives on the line for us. They made sacrifices that are hard to even imagine. They fought to protect us, and they shouldn't have to then fight their country for the benefits that they have earned.

Let's take care of our veterans. Let's pass this bill and the underlying legislation. And let's honor our veterans with more than just words.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my good friend, the chairman of the Rules Committee, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would just like to take a moment to recognize someone who absolutely exemplifies the bipartisanship and camaraderie of the Rules Committee staff, and that is James Fitzella. He has worked on the Rules Committee for 7 years, and I am incredibly sad to say that he is leaving us for the private sector. His commitment to this institution and working across the aisle to get things done, that attitude will be truly missed.

He served the Rules Committee with integrity, dedication, and unwavering optimism. Congressional staff are often the unsung heroes of this body and of any legislative accomplishment, and this is absolutely the truth in James' case.

I know I speak for everybody on the Rules Committee when I extend my sincere gratitude to James for his public service and wish him our very best.

I would also be remiss if I didn't recognize Jeff Gohringer, who is leaving the majority staff after being on the Rules Committee for 6 years. I am sure Chairman MCGOVERN would agree that we would be lost without the excellent work from our staff members.

I know Jeff was an absolutely critical part of the team, so I would like to also extend my best wishes to Jeff in his future endeavors as well.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the rule before us. The rule before us today makes in order H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act.

As an Iraq war veteran, I believe supporting toxic-exposed veterans should be of the highest priority.

Approximately 3.5 million veterans who served our Nation after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 were exposed to open-air burn pits and other toxins. Many of these troops now suffer from serious health issues, including rare and aggressive cancers, respiratory conditions, and other illnesses. Yet, they face significant barriers to obtaining help from the VA.

These men and women put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms. We must provide them with the care and benefits they have earned.

That is why I am disappointed that we are here considering H.R. 3967 rather than voting on the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, a bipartisan bill that has already passed the Senate by unanimous consent. If we took up that bill immediately, it could be signed into law by the end of the week, ensuring swift delivery of lifesaving care for toxic-exposed veterans.

Instead, here we are, prioritizing a bill that must still undergo a lengthy analysis process and many legislative considerations. We also have to look at the impact on the current VA and those that are getting benefits now from the VA, and the backlog that exists in our VA system.

Republicans want to quickly deliver help to veterans suffering from toxic exposure. The best way to do that is to bring the Senate-passed Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act to the House floor.

Prioritizing H.R. 3967 will only slow down the process and delay implementation of toxic exposure benefits. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to oppose this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman for his comments. I just want to say that he is right. We could probably pass the very short bill that the Republicans have put forward, H.R. 6659, and send it to the President. But our bill, which is actually more than 80 pages, goes into much more depth and covers a lot more.

Republicans want to do just a little bit. We want to actually solve the challenges that so many of our veterans face.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy, which states that President Biden would basically sign the bill we are discussing here today into law.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 3967—HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS (PACT) ACT—REP. TAKANO, D-CALIFORNIA AND 100 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly supports H.R. 3967, which would expand veterans' access to health care and benefits to address the health effects of harmful environmental exposures that occurred during military service.

The President believes that our Nation has only one truly sacred obligation: to properly prepare and equip our service members when we send them into harm's way and to care for them and their families when they return

home. Far too often, military service comes with a cost, and we owe it to our veterans and their families to address these consequences comprehensively. Unfortunately, it has taken decades to understand the deleterious effects of environmental exposures—leaving too many without access to the benefits and services they need.

H.R. 3967 would make changes to the definitions for who is eligible for VA health care based on presumed toxic exposure during military service, including from burn pits, radiation, or other environmental conditions. H.R. 3967 would also make changes to the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA's) process for determining presumptive service connection and mandate several research studies related to military related environmental exposures. It would also establish new registries related to exposures, which would provide new data on the long-term impacts from environmental exposures. H.R. 3967 also would allow a Federal cause of action related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and establish training requirements for health providers, and require an outreach plan to educate veterans about their eligibility for benefits and services related to toxic exposure.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to enact this legislation and ensuring it is effectively implemented. We must address the toxic legacy of environmental exposures sustained by veterans during their military service and fulfill our sacred obligation to our veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. We must also ensure that VA has the resources it needs to implement this legislation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. We have an opportunity today to move a bill forward that will pass the House, even if many Republicans will not vote for it; send it to the Senate; get them to act on it; and send to the President a bill for him to sign that will actually do the job and be more than just a press release.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of today's rule.

As we work with President Biden to build a better America, we must honor our debt to our veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our country.

There are obvious risks and sacrifices in military service: the physical and mental challenges, time away from loved ones, and the possibility that one may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice for one's country. But there are hidden risks and sacrifices as well, and our failure to address them means that, for too long, we have not met the needs of veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances during the course of their military service, as they have suffered from chronic respiratory illness, cancer, and a variety of other maladies later in life.

The most well-known example of this is Agent Orange. It took years of veterans' advocacy for the government to acknowledge and provide services and treatment for injuries caused by Agent Orange.

Even as the connections between illness and exposure to Agent Orange

have multiplied, new links have been established between exposure to other toxic substances during military service and chronic and life-threatening diseases. The burn pits used at military installations across the globe are a more recent example.

The Honoring our PACT bill enacts long-overdue support for over 3 million veterans suffering from illnesses due to exposure to toxins and radiation during military service. This comprehensive bill will cut red tape to getting veterans benefits, allowing veterans exposed to chemical, airborne, and radioactive hazards to receive full health benefits to treat illnesses related to that exposure.

We owe it to our vets to pass this bill and provide them with the benefits they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to highlight my amendment to the Honoring our PACT Act, which will provide additional funding to ensure that the VA can implement the new benefits that this bill will authorize.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support the rule, the PACT Act, and my amendment when they are considered on the House floor.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just a quick point of rebuttal. I would just remind my good friend from Massachusetts that passage of H.R. 3967 is not guaranteed in the Senate.

We don't have that concern when we are talking about the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, which has already passed the Senate by unanimous consent. We could pass that today here on the floor this week. It could be signed into law this week. Doing anything other is simply to delay assistance to the veterans who need it most.

Now, to the topic of Ukraine. In the wake of Vladimir Putin's brutal, brutal invasion of Ukraine, the world is crying out for an alternative to Russian energy. Pennsylvania, and the rest of America's heartland, could provide that alternative.

But President Biden and Congressional Democrats refuse to let that happen. They would rather promote their radical Green New Deal agenda and continue buying oil from Putin's ruthless regime. They would rather do that than unleash domestic energy production, and that includes Pennsylvania coal, oil, and natural gas industries. They would rather do that than lower gas and heating prices for American families and strengthen our national security through becoming an energy exporter.

Republicans, on the other hand, actually want to make America energy independent once again, just like we were in the last administration.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will personally offer an amendment to the rule to immediately consider the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amend-

ment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Here to explain the amendment is one of the bill's authors, the Natural Resources Committee ranking member and my good friend. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we witness an evil empire trying to remake itself, I reflect on Mrs. Bolin's first grade class in my tiny rural school in the heartland of America and, as a 6-year-old living during the Cold War, trying to understand how crouching under a desk as part of our nuclear attack drill would save anyone. The simple truth is, it wouldn't.

Crouching, hiding, and being intimidated only emboldens Communists. Standing up strong is how you beat the evils of communism.

Last year, I had the great experience of standing at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, where Ronald Reagan spoke those famous words in 1987: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Remarkably, less than 2½ years later, that wall came down, and by the end of 1991, the evil Soviet empire had dissolved. The Soviet Union was gone, but the seeds of the evil in the Communist government of Russia and other parts of the world still remain.

As brave Ukrainians are fighting a David and Goliath type battle of survival, we must stand strong and create a long-term plan to crush the Russian energy grip on Europe and our allies. Energy revenue feeds the Russian beast, and we have the resources and the technology to starve it to death.

Only a few years ago, the United States became energy independent. But my, how quickly things have changed.

On his first day in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline that could have reduced our reliance on Russian oil. But it is not just Keystone. All U.S. pipeline projects are being held up, and Russian hackers even attacked our existing pipelines with no recourse.

A week into office, the Biden administration doubled down on their anti-American energy agenda, ordering an indefinite freeze on new oil and gas leasing and, to this day, has issued zero new leases on Federal lands or waters.

President Biden's policies are choosing Russian oil and Russian jobs over American energy and our own national security. In fact, in 2021, U.S. imports from Russia reached an 11-year high, and we are sending tens of millions of our dollars every day to fund Putin's war machine.

Why are we doing this to ourselves when we have so many resources at our fingertips?

Our bill is simple, and it stands up to Russian aggression by going after their

major source of funding. It will empower U.S. domestic production by immediately approving the Keystone XL pipeline; by restarting the oil and gas leasing program on Federal lands and waters; by requiring President Biden to submit an energy security plan to Congress; by unleashing liquefied natural gas exports to displace Russian gas abroad; and, finally, requiring drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to be replaced by increased Federal oil and gas leasing.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up strong and join Mrs. McMorris Rodgers and me in cosponsoring the legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. WESTERMAN. I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that our legislation can be considered immediately by the House of Representatives.

□ 1245

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we begin on a note of basically saying that it was wonderful that we were all united in standing up to Vladimir Putin and speaking with one voice. I think we need to kind of amend that at this point.

Let me just say that we need to stand with the people of Ukraine. We need to stand with President Zelensky, who has had the guts to stand up to Vladimir Putin, but also to the former President who tried to extort him and who withheld essential defensive military aid in exchange for trying to get from him some manufactured dirt on the President's son. Let's be a little bit careful about what charges we are throwing around here.

Again, I am sorry that my Republican colleagues are feeling the need to come here and play partisan politics in the middle of a global crisis, but I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

Yet, for all their criticism on how this administration is handling the crisis in Ukraine, they have been all over the map on what they would do differently. They talk about energy independence, yet they are the ones who have consistently voted against and opposed green and renewable energy here at home, which is the fastest way to achieve real energy independence.

I include in the RECORD a February 23 Washington Post opinion piece entitled "Republicans say Biden is 'weak' on Ukraine. What would they do differently?" By the way, just a spoiler alert, the answer is: They have no idea.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 23, 2022]

OPINION: REPUBLICANS SAY BIDEN IS 'WEAK' ON UKRAINE. WHAT WOULD THEY DO DIFFERENTLY?

(By Paul Waldman)

There was a time in American history when foreign crises were considered a moment for unity. We said "politics stops at

the water's edge," meaning that partisanship had to be put aside so the country could show the world a united front, and both parties usually agreed.

The public acted that way, too. Presidents' approval ratings would rise whenever we found ourselves in any sort of conflict with a foreign adversary; this was called the "rally 'round the flag effect," and it occurred even when things went badly. For instance, President Jimmy Carter's approval ratings shot up by almost 30 points after Americans were taken hostage in Tehran.

But no more. Even the most straightforward of foreign policy challenges become yet another opportunity for the opposition to say the president is a failure and a villain, which is what Republicans are doing now as we confront Russian leader Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

But that doesn't mean the Republican Party can decide what it believes.

One of Donald Trump's legacies is that in some GOP quarters, Putin is now regarded as akin to a hero. That starts with Trump himself, who reacted to the invasion by calling Putin's aggression "genius," "smart," and "savvy." Meanwhile, Fox News host Tucker Carlson has been so relentless in passing on the Kremlin's perspective that Russian state TV regularly airs clips from his show.

That exacerbates the profoundly unsettled nature of contemporary foreign policy thinking in the GOP. The right has struggled to find a singular voice over the past 15 years or so, once the thrill of the Global War on Terror ran aground in the disaster of the Iraq War.

In the 2016 presidential primaries, Republican candidates struggled over whether and how to call the war a mistake, and where that would leave the party's traditional hawkishness. Then Trump took over, with less a foreign policy doctrine than a shifting collection of impulses, including a distrust of ambitious adventures and an obsequiousness toward Putin that can be described only as pathetic.

So how should a Republican hawk respond to the current crisis? The answer is clear: Just make it about President Biden.

The GOP critique is both blessedly free of substance and plays right into the anxieties about manhood that determine approximately 75 percent of everything Republicans do these days.

So whether you're a Putin fanboy or a cold warrior, you can agree that the real problem here is weakness. Why is this crisis happening? Because Biden is weak. What should America do now? Not be weak, because Biden is weak. Is your favorite baseball team going to win the pennant this year? They would, if Biden wasn't so weak.

"Biden weakness invited Russian aggression, Republicans say," reads a Fox News headline. Biden is "the weakest president that America has ever had," says former Trump administration ambassador to United Nations Nikki Haley. "No one fears this pathetic old geezer" says the National Review.

The House Republican Conference tweeted a picture of Biden, with the caption "This is what weakness on the world stage looks like." Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, the third-ranking Republican in the House, tweeted, "Biden is unfit to serve as Commander-in-Chief. He has consistently given into Putin's demands and shown nothing but weakness."

Though some Republicans say the sanctions at the center of Biden's strategy should have started earlier, you'll have a hard time finding one who can specify in any detail what Biden's "weakness" toward Russia has consisted of to this point, nor what a "strong" president would be doing instead. Mounting a ground invasion to take Moscow? Launching nuclear weapons? What?

If the answer is "What Biden is doing, but, you know, more," that's not very persuasive. But as far as they're concerned, "strength" isn't something presidents demonstrate with their actions; it's more of an ineffable quality that Republican presidents possess by definition while Democratic presidents lack.

Consider Trump. Short of literally getting down on his hands and knees to shine Putin's shoes, there's almost no way you could imagine Trump having been weaker toward Putin than he actually was. Trump continually praised the Russian dictator, dismissed his misdeeds and went out of his way to denigrate NATO—just as Putin would want.

It culminated in the utterly disgraceful display at the 2018 summit in Helsinki, when Trump was asked about Russian interference in the 2016 election and declared he was taking Putin's word over the analysis of U.S. intelligence agencies, because "President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today."

It was so embarrassing that even Republicans were shocked; then-Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee said Trump "made us look like a pushover." Sen. John McCain called it "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory." Nevertheless, today Republicans claim that when it came to Russia, Trump was a paragon of strength.

And however this crisis ends, they will insist that everything would have worked out far better if only Biden were stronger. Whatever that means.

To be clear, everyone has the right to criticize the president; having politics end at the water's edge brings its own problems. Nor is there anything wrong with intraparty differences. But rather than a lively debate over alternative courses of action, what we're seeing now from the GOP is mostly juvenile name-calling.

Not that we had much reason to expect anything different.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, thousands of veterans struggle with the health effects of exposure to hazardous substances during their training or deployment. Congress has an obligation to provide these men and women with the resources, including healthcare services, they need to live with dignity.

The Honoring our PACT Act fulfills this duty by streamlining VA processes to receive care for toxic exposure-related illnesses, reducing the burden on all veterans. It also takes preemptive measures to ensure that the VA conducts research to track and identify emerging toxins. This will ensure that we are proactive in our efforts to safeguard the health of future veterans.

I am particularly pleased that this bill includes the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, which gives our servicemembers the opportunity to seek compensation for exposure to contaminated water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

For decades, marines and their families stationed at this base unknowingly consumed, bathed in, and used water containing harmful chemicals and industrial solvents. As a result of their service, many veterans and their family members now suffer from serious

medical conditions, including cancer and birth defects.

For years, North Carolina law prevented these individuals from seeking relief in court. The Camp Lejeune Justice Act rights this wrong, bringing long overdue justice to affected veterans.

The Honoring our PACT Act also creates a registry of veterans exposed to PFAS, or forever chemicals, from use of fire extinguishing agents in military installations. I proposed an amendment to this section with my colleague from North Carolina, Representative ROUZER, which will require the Department of Defense to study additional sources of PFAS exposure on military bases and make recommendations to expand eligibility for toxic exposure benefits accordingly. I am grateful that this amendment was made in order. We owe our Nation's veterans an immeasurable debt for putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best ways that we can support the Ukrainian people, and President Zelensky by extension, is by ensuring that we have a steady supply of American energy and that we are supplying our allies in Eastern Europe. This will also deny Putin a major revenue stream.

Alarming, U.S. oil imports from Russia reached an 11-year high in 2021, accounting for more than 10 percent of the total U.S. crude oil and petroleum product imports.

Here to explain why that should concern all Americans is my good friend, my mentor, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, TOM COLE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding.

It is imperative that we defeat the previous question so that we can bring up the American Energy Independence from Russia Act for immediate consideration.

Mr. Speaker, last week, Vladimir Putin sent shock waves around the world by launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Though much of the planet has rallied to support Ukraine in their heroic defense, Putin has begun to use his most potent weapon to threaten Western democracies. That weapon is dependence of much of the world on Russian oil and gas.

Not even the United States is immune from this national security threat. In 2021, according to the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, the United States imported an average of 209,000 barrels of crude oil per day and 500,000 barrels per day of other petroleum products from Russia. It is unconscionable that we are still this reliant on imports from authoritarian countries like Russia. This reliance on bad actors for our energy supply needs poses a clear and present

danger to the security of the United States, just as it poses a threat to the security of Western and Central Europe.

At any time, Vladimir Putin could choose to retaliate on the dozens of countries that have imposed sanctions on him and his regime by simply turning off the spigot. Gas prices in the United States would undoubtedly increase, even more than they currently are, and much of Europe will be plunged into the cold in the depths of winter. That is a potent leverage for a dictator like Putin to have. We must counter this by restoring America's energy independence and helping our friends and allies to do the same.

Unfortunately, when President Biden took office, he immediately took steps that ultimately harmed America's energy independence and made us more reliant on foreign energy imports. That included his decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline, which was expected to transport 830,000 barrels of oil every day, and his decision to impose a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on Federal lands, including my home State of Oklahoma. President Biden's actions have made America less energy secure and more vulnerable to foreign threats.

This is why we need the American Energy Independence from Russia Act more than ever. This bill would immediately approve the Keystone XL pipeline, would restart oil and gas leasing on Federal lands and waters, and would expand liquid natural gas exports at a time when Europe needs them the most. It would ensure an all-of-the-above energy policy that paves the way for American energy independence, and it would rightly end the ongoing vilification of America's oil and gas industry.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is simply common sense. With one bill, we can open up new sources of energy and reduce or eliminate imports of foreign sources of energy. Above all, by advancing this bill, we can improve the security of the United States, and weaken Vladimir Putin's most potent weapon in one fell swoop.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to respond, because I like the gentleman too much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would like to begin by thanking Chairman TAKANO for his incredible leadership on this legislation and tireless work on behalf of veterans all across our country.

H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act of 2021, recognizes the full range of military toxic exposure, from contaminated water at military bases and airborne hazards from burn pits, to radiation from atomic testing. It upholds and recognizes the promise we made to every servicemember that we would care for them should they become

wounded or sick while risking everything to protect this country.

This legislation is long overdue, and it is the least we can do for the more than 3.5 million veterans who are currently suffering without the healthcare they need and deserve.

These veterans and their loved ones should never have been forced to come to Congress demanding that we and the VA provide the care they have so clearly earned, which is why I am glad that this bill ensures that future veterans will be able to get the help they need without waiting decades for help by streamlining the VA's toxic exposure presumptions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, one in six American adults reported they cannot pay their full energy bill in the last 12 months. That is appalling. It is especially appalling given the fact that at our fingertips we have an abundance of energy. In Pennsylvania alone, we have oil, gas, and clean coal. We should be unleashing the American energy sector.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL), who is here to talk more about this.

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so that the rule can be amended to consider H.R. 6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act offered by my colleagues, Ranking Member MCMORRIS RODGERS and Ranking Member WESTERMAN.

The Biden administration has taken seemingly every step possible since taking office to cripple the energy dominance agenda of the Trump administration that saw America become an energy-independent Nation for the first time in decades.

In New Mexico, the Biden administration has yet to hold a lease sale since taking office, which is a direct violation of Federal law. By not holding a lease sale, the Biden administration is robbing the citizens of New Mexico of revenues that could be used to improve vital services like our public education system.

By artificially reducing our energy production, we are only increasing Russia's power in the world. Since the beginning of 2020, imports of Russian oil into the U.S. have increased by nearly 300,000 barrels a day. This is a direct result of the Biden administration flipping the switch and taking disastrous executive actions that prevent energy development here at home. Our increased dependency on foreign sources of energy is causing energy prices for our constituents to skyrocket. Gas prices are up over 50 percent, which is hitting our constituents hard every time they go to the pump and every time they buy groceries or heat their homes.

If we get back to producing energy at the capacity that we are capable of, our energy supply will be secure, gas prices will fall, and economic outlook will vastly improve. Advancing innovation and increasing U.S. production is the only effective way to achieve American prosperity and reduce global reliance on Russia.

By accepting the status quo of being an energy-dependent Nation, my Democratic colleagues are willfully weakening both our national and economic security.

H.R. 6858 will change the course of American energy policy and bring back the era of American energy dominance. I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and support the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, two quick things. One, my friends are touting this whatever it is, this all-of-the-above approach to dealing with our energy challenges. But I am looking at this proposal, and it just seems it is the same old, same old, fossil fuels, fossil fuels, fossil fuels. I wonder who wrote this. I wonder where this came from.

Why isn't there any mention of green energy or clean energy or solar energy or renewable energy, any of the things that, quite frankly, the majority of the American people want us to do? Why isn't it here?

Well, I will make a suggestion to people who are tuning in: Follow the money. Follow the money. This is Big Oil's wish list. If you want to continue to find ourselves in circumstances, whenever there is an international crisis, that we have to kowtow to Big Oil, then listen to them.

But on the Democratic side, we want to wean ourselves off of the same old, same old. And "all-of-the-above," by the way, is not just oil, oil, oil.

The second thing I want to say is that my friends on the other side always love to talk about how much they support our veterans. Well, we actually have a bill here that will support our veterans. It is a big deal. You all received a letter from all the leading veterans' service organizations of this country saying to please pass this bill.

They don't want to talk about it. They say: Oh, support this minuscule bill, the alternative that we are putting up here, by the way, which our veterans' organizations do not prefer.

If you really want to help our veterans, if you are sincere about what you say when you say let's support our veterans, then how about voting that way. Talk is cheap around here. How about putting your vote where your rhetoric is and supporting this underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

□ 1300

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we ask our veterans to serve, young men and

women who sign up, serve in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and they are going knowing that they are representing us, and they will take on the challenges and the dangers of combat. They do that willingly.

But why is it that we create an extra hazard within our control by creating these burn pits and assign men and women to be breathing that toxic air? It is not right. This legislation, Honoring our PACT Act, finally acknowledges that that was wrong and that we have a duty to every one of those veterans.

In Vermont—and I know, Mr. Speaker, it is in your State as well; you have been a leader on this—there has been tragedy with cancers to young men and women, fathers, moms.

In our State, Pat Cram and June Heston both lost their wonderful husbands, Sergeant Major Michael Cram and Brigadier General Michael Heston, to cancer. Those women have started a movement in Vermont that has supported this legislation that finally is going to do for these veterans what we did for the Vietnam veterans with Agent Orange and establish a presumption that this was combat related. It is overdue, and it is necessary.

So I thank all of the men and women on both sides of the aisle who are standing up to acknowledge that our obligation is to take care of the warrior and his or her family after they have served us so well.

This is overdue legislation. Let's pass it by unanimous consent.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, just three quick points in rebuttal. First and foremost, I myself am a veteran of the Iraq war. I was there for 6 months, actually, in 2009.

If we would just pass the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act that the Senate passed by unanimous consent, we could pass that and put it on the President's desk at the end of this week. There is nothing standing in our way except the Democratic Party on this.

Also, I would just remind my good friend from Massachusetts that my motion does not prevent the House from considering the Honoring our PACT Act. It doesn't. It simply amends the rule to also allow for consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

I am sure everyone on the other side of the aisle would agree that lowering gas and heating prices for all American families and ending our dependence on Russian oil is of the utmost importance. In fact, I just got an alert that a gentleman from my colleague's State General Assembly just put forward a bill on the floor of the General Assembly of Massachusetts to stop the importation of Russian oil.

Sixty percent of the natural gas our country imports actually goes to Massachusetts. People don't realize that. But if New York would get out of the way and allow Pennsylvania to have a pipeline from Pennsylvania to New

England, the New Englanders wouldn't need dirty Russian oil. They could use Pennsylvania natural gas. But I digress. We can and should find the time this week to add the American Energy Independence from Russia Act to our agenda.

Lastly, ad nauseam, I have heard bill after bill after bill from the leftists across the other side of the aisle on electric vehicles, and yet again I am reminded that the Republicans are the real party of science because if you look at the actual science, an electric car will generate just 23 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a gasoline-powered car.

In fact, if you were to take every gas-powered car on the face of the planet and get rid of it, it would only mean a mere 1.8 percent decline in total emissions. This is fake science. We have alchemy and chemistry. We have astrology and we have astronomy. We have the Democrat Party and we have the Republican Party.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), my good friend, to talk more about this.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Dickinson, North Dakota, is in the southern part of the Bakken oil patch. It is where we unleashed this revolutionary technology of shale hydraulic fracturing, horizontal drilling, and producing natural gas. But you know what else? Eighteen miles away from my childhood hometown is an ethanol plant. Seven miles to the west is a biodiesel plant. Thirteen miles south, fourteen miles south is the largest wind farm in North Dakota generation of Brady I and Brady II. About 80 miles to the northeast we are figuring out how to strip rare earth metals out of lignite coal so we can be less dependent on Russia and China in all of those issues.

The people who work and live in my communities grow all the cereal grains, and the by-products from the ethanol plant are fed as feedstock to our cattle industry, so I don't need lectures from anyone on all-of-the-above energy, particularly when the left's version of all-of-the-above energy is solely wind, solar, rainbows, unicorns.

Here is the dirty little secret: The world is going to burn more carbon in 2 years whether we shut down domestic production or not, and this naive and idealistic viewpoint that if we shut down American industry, American ingenuity, then the rest of the world will follow along is fundamental differential to the fact we are watching it play out in real time.

Our strategic adversaries and, indeed, our enemies will fill this space—that is the fact—because the world needs these products, and they are going to continue to utilize these products. But at least welcome this: We are going to do nothing to reduce global carbon emissions because the atmosphere doesn't recognize countries' borders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question, allow this

to go back, and let us do what we were doing so well until the last year, developing American energy, allowing it to be utilized, rather than energy from our adversaries.

I can tell you one last thing, and then I will close. In the last year, we haven't had a Federal lease sale in North Dakota. Congressional Democrats have tried to ban the transport of liquefied natural gas by rail, and so let's be honest about how we got here so we can get there in the future.

Mr. McGOVERN. It is amazing, Mr. Speaker, we are here talking about a major veterans bill, and the gentleman couldn't even bring himself to mention veterans once in his statement.

To the gentleman from Pennsylvania, talking about taking all cars off the road, who is talking about that? I will tell the gentleman that if we go ahead with what he wants to do on the Keystone pipeline, that is equivalent to adding another 5 million cars on the road. That is what that would mean to our environment.

My Republican friends, if they want to think small when it comes to veterans, have at it. Veterans' organizations are watching. We are hearing from veterans all across the country who want this bill passed. They want us to pass this comprehensive bill. We will do that.

If you want to do your minuscule bill, you have a substitute, you can vote for it. It is in your substitute. We want to actually do something in a comprehensive way to meet the concerns that our veterans have expressed for years and years and years. If you want to take a pass, go ahead. That is what you do on our most important issues. This probably is no exception.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule for the Honoring our PACT Act, which includes the Camp Lejeune Justice Act. This legislation would allow marines and their families who were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune over 34 years—34 years of neglect and denial—finally to pursue their long overdue day in court.

Toxicity rates in Camp Lejeune's water were staggering. They ranged from 240 to 3,400 times what is permitted by today's national safety standards. This greatly increased the risk of cancers, adverse birth outcomes, and other medical tragedies. And now many veterans and their families are suffering from no legal recourse.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act will correct an anomaly in North Carolina law by providing a legal pathway for affected veterans and their families to pursue fair compensation, which would already be permitted had their exposure occurred anywhere else except the State of North Carolina.

Today's effort is a culmination of the decades-long bipartisan campaign to

provide servicemembers affected an opportunity for justice long deferred. First by Congressman Brad Miller and Senator BURR, as well as the late Congressman Walter Jones.

I am also grateful for the tireless advocacy of the affected marines and their families, the sustained efforts of diverse groups of supporters, and my congressional colleagues, including the bill's sponsors, Congressmen MATT CARTWRIGHT and GREG MURPHY.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the rule for this Honoring our PACT Act and with it the adoption of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, a critical step to honor the promises we have made to our veterans.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), my good friend and the Republican whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding. First of all, opposing the previous question, the bill that is going to be coming up later is a very partisan bill. We could actually bring up the Senate bill for our veterans that passed the Senate unanimously. Imagine in these times when a bill passed the Senate unanimously, and Democrats in the majority won't even bring that bill up, which clearly is the way to help our veterans.

But there is something more important that we can do today, dealing with the crisis in Ukraine. There are many crises in America, but in Ukraine Putin is running roughshod over the people of Ukraine, carpet bombing cities. One of the ways he is fueling his war is with oil that America and other countries are buying because President Biden took American energy off the table.

There are very specific things President Biden does that if we reject this previous question, we can turn around and bring up this legislation by my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), that actually open up American energy and take leverage away from Putin and also take billions of dollars away from Putin that he is using to finance the war.

Let's talk about a few of those very specific things we can do with rejecting the previous question to bring up this important energy legislation. When President Biden came in office, he did a number of very specific things to undermine American energy. Not energy all over the world. He is begging OPEC and Russia to produce more oil. Think how tone deaf that is, begging Russia to produce more oil. Let's open up our American energy reserves that President Biden shut off. Let's approve LNG exports so we can help Europe get energy from America, not from Russia. President Biden hasn't approved a single LNG facility in over a year or pipeline. Let's get rid of the red tape that they are using. Do you know that Russia right now is making \$700 million a

day by selling oil to America, EU, and U.K.? \$700 million a day to fund his war against Ukraine. Let's end it by opening up American energy reserves. Reverse all these radical policies by President Biden that are emboldening Putin. Let's reject this.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman that President Biden didn't try to extort President Zelensky by withholding money to get him to manufacture dirt on one of his political opponents. But I find this a little bit comical.

My Republican friends say that they want to bring up this Senate bill, which is much narrower than what we are doing right now, yet they want you to defeat the previous question not so they can bring up that Senate bill, but so they can bring up this giveaway to the oil companies. Again, follow the money. Follow the money. This is a bill that was written in some back room in some oil company and, quite frankly, it is unconscionable. They never let a crisis go to waste.

Today we are talking about trying to help our veterans, and it would be nice if on this one issue of helping our veterans we could all come together, but I guess that is asking too much.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder that the Honoring our PACT Act includes my bill, the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, and let me tell you why I wrote this bill. Between 1953 and 1987, two generations of marines and marine families and employees at Camp Lejeune were poisoned by the water at Camp Lejeune. Poisoned by water that by today's standards in health, 240 to 3,400 times the level of acceptable toxins was in that water. This was water that the marines drank. It was in the mess halls. It was water that they showered with. It was water that they drank out from the water buffaloes and filled their canteens from while on exercise. This is water that was poisoned, and it not only poisoned the water of marines but also the marine families and the employees at Camp Lejeune.

Mr. Speaker, when marines volunteer for Marine duty, they know they are up for something dangerous. They know that the Marines pride themselves on being the first to fight. They know they are going to be in harm's way at some point, but when they went to Camp Lejeune for combat training, they didn't realize what their real enemy was going to be. It was going to be leukemia, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, aplastic anemia, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Parkinson's disease. Not only the marines, but their families were subject to this from the water.

I would like to thank the people who helped put together this bill, DAVID PRICE, GREG MURPHY, the Reverend William Barber, the veterans service organizations, 151 Republicans and

Democrats who came together on this bill.

Folks, at long last, all of these great marines, these great Americans will get a shot at justice. I urge a "yes" vote on the PQ, "yes" on the rule, and let's vote "yes" on the Honoring our PACT Act and the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

□ 1315

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, just one point in rebuttal to my good friend from Massachusetts: Republicans do support toxic-exposed veterans. Yesterday, I personally offered an amendment in the Rules Committee to bring up the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act. By the way, that passed unanimously in the Senate. We could again be doing that right now. That doesn't stop us from debating the current bill. We can walk and chew gum at the same time, but the only thing that is delaying getting the Senate version of this bill on to the President's desk at the end of this week is the Democratic Party. We could pass that bill this week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) to talk about oil and gas and energy issues.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

I just heard my friends on the other side say, let's follow the money. Let's follow the money.

Mr. Speaker, right now under this administration, we have gone from buying approximately 76,000 barrels of crude oil a day to surging to 198,000 barrels of crude oil every single day. If you add in other petroleum products, Mr. Speaker, let's follow the money. The additional \$22 million a day that we are giving to Vladimir Putin, if you add it all up, we are giving him \$7 billion a year. \$7 billion a year that goes toward the \$65 billion Vladimir Putin puts towards military spending every single year.

Yes, let's follow the money.

I hear my friends on the other side talk about emissions, oh, we can't do these things because it is going to cause greater emissions.

Let's once again look at the facts, Mr. Speaker. Under the previous administration, on average, emissions went down 2½ percent a year. Under President Biden they have increased 6.3 percent every single year.

Let's follow the money.

Do you know who is paying that money? It is the Americans that can least afford it, whether it is the \$12 extra every single time they are filling up their vehicle with gas, whether it is the 700 to \$1,700 a year in extra electricity payments that Americans are paying this year to heat their homes.

Mr. Speaker, yes, let's follow the money because the people in America that can least afford it, they are the ones that are paying the bill for these irresponsible, ill-advised energy policies that, Mr. Speaker, you can go back

and look at the RECORD, we are the ones who advocated otherwise.

Here is the deal: This administration has stopped offshore production, prevented new lease sales, prevented on-shore production. This majority has tried to impose a \$10,000 per year per mile pipeline fee, tried to raise royalty fees, increased severance taxes on domestic energy.

Do you think Vladimir Putin is doing the same thing with Russian energy? I can answer that, Mr. Speaker: Absolutely not.

The policies that this bill fixes are the errors that this administration and this majority in Congress made in imposing this energy crisis on us in raising energy prices for Americans that can least afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the facts don't result in the narrative that my friends on the other side are trying to establish. Let's be clear on why we have an energy crisis in America, why we are dependent upon Vladimir Putin for energy, why we are funding the military atrocities that he is carrying out in the Ukraine right now, and let's support this bill, this legislation that Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS and Congressman WESTERMAN have pushed to ensure that we can have a clean American energy future.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an April 28, 2021, Military.com article titled: "VA Secretary Wants More Vets Sickened by Burn Pits to File Claims, But Many Are Still Being Turned Away," and I include in the RECORD an April 12, 2021, "NBC News" article titled: "Veterans Face Uphill Battle to Receive Treatment For 'Burn Pit' Exposure."

[From Military.com, Apr. 28, 2021]

VA SECRETARY WANTS MORE VETS SICKENED BY BURN PITS TO FILE CLAIMS, BUT MANY ARE STILL BEING TURNED AWAY

(By Steve Beynon)

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough wants more veterans who believe they were sickened by exposure to burn pits overseas to seek help from the department, despite many being turned away.

"We're urging vets to come forward with their claims," McDonough said at a press briefing Monday. "Our commitment is to treat each claim with the care it deserves. As we get more claims, we can aggregate those claims to draw bigger conclusions."

As of March 31, the VA had denied 72% of burn pit claims, according to agency data obtained by Military.com. Between June 2007 and March 31, the VA processed 15,640 disability compensation claims related to burn pit exposure. Of those, 3,510 veterans had at least one burn pit issue granted.

The top three diagnoses related to burn pits are bronchial asthma, chronic bronchitis and allergic rhinitis, according to department data. The most common reasons for a veteran to be denied is not having a diagnosed medical condition or being unable to connect the condition to their service—43.1% and 42.8% of denials, respectively.

But the data doesn't reflect the scope of the issue. The number of patients filing claims might be disproportionately small given VA estimates that 3.5 million veterans

have been exposed to burn pits since 1990. It is unclear how many are sick due to their exposure or have died as a result.

McDonough suggests that more data is needed, and he wants more veterans to seek help from the VA so officials can get a better grasp on the issue.

The burn pit data also could be inherently flawed. To get the data, the VA had to use text mining, searching for keywords such as "burn pit" and "burn pits" in its patient databases, according to department records. This means patients coming forward with issues related to burn pits might not automatically be listed as burn pit patients if that phrase wasn't used in their records.

Out of the 2.5 million Global War on Terrorism veterans, 781,384 have filed claims related to respiratory issues. According to VA data obtained by Military.com, 63% were granted. Of all the GWOT veterans, 42,686 filed for claims related to cancer; 37% of those claims were granted.

The VA's research shows GWOT veterans are three times more likely than non-deployed veterans to file claims related to respiratory issues and twice as likely to file claims for cancer.

"Although the GWOT-deployed and GWOT non-deployed population sizes are relatively the same, the GWOT-deployed cohort has more than two times the number of service-connected cancers," according to the agency's findings.

Burn pits are often referred to as the post-9/11 generation's Agent Orange, referencing the bureaucratic maze and uneven claims process veterans have to navigate, and what could be a decades-long legislative fight to issue easy-to-access health care and disability compensation.

The House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and advocacy groups have made toxic exposure the top issue this year. Congress is looking at some two dozen bills, ranging from incremental improvements to sweeping health care bills for all 3.5 million veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic environments.

But it's unclear what can actually make it to President Joe Biden's desk. Some lawmakers and advocates are concerned over what is very likely to be a huge tab to cover the cost of opening the VA up to a huge swath of new patients.

[From NBC News, April 12, 2021]

VETERANS FACE UPHILL BATTLE TO RECEIVE TREATMENT FOR 'BURN PIT' EXPOSURE

(By Kenzi Abou-Sabe and Didi Martinez)

During Marine veteran Scott Evans' two tours in Afghanistan, his work on a specialized team that used dogs to sniff out explosives led him to spend large chunks of time around open-air pits where trash was burned.

In August, Evans, 33, of North Carolina, received devastating news: he had terminal pancreatic cancer. The diagnosis placed him among a growing number of military veterans who say they have developed serious and sometimes fatal diseases after facing prolonged exposure to burn pits at overseas bases.

The pits were a common feature at military bases during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a crude answer to the basic logistics problem of how to deal with piles and piles of trash. Everything from electronics and vehicles to human waste was regularly doused in jet fuel and set ablaze, spewing toxic fumes and carcinogens into the air.

The Department of Defense estimates that roughly 3.5 million service members could have been exposed to burn pits. The Department of Veterans Affairs has denied about 75 percent of veterans' burn pit claims, including Evans', because it does not acknowledge

a connection between conditions like asthma and cancer to exposure to the flaming garbage piles.

Veterans say that at the same time they face resistance while seeking treatment from the VA, they have also been let down by civilian medical providers who often lack an understanding of the existence and dangers of burn pits.

"Over the next decades, I'd be shocked if we didn't see spikes in disease in these patients," said Dr. Tom Abrams, an oncologist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who has treated two veterans affected by burn pits.

"Whether it's cancer, respiratory illness or some other disease that has yet to make itself known, I think we have to be on the lookout and really be aware that these veterans are at very high risk."

Abrams and other medical experts acknowledge that it's exceedingly difficult to draw a definitive link between burn pits and the conditions veterans are reporting, but they note that ample evidence already exists showing that long-term exposure to toxic smoke can lead to serious health issues.

A VA spokesperson said it "follows the science on questions of health outcomes of military exposures" and is conducting a review of the hazards of burn pits.

The spokesperson referenced a 2020 report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine that found none of the 27 respiratory health outcomes it reviewed met the criteria for "sufficient evidence of an association." The evidence for respiratory symptoms such as chronic persistent cough and wheezing met the criteria for "limited or suggestive evidence of an association," the spokesperson added.

A Pentagon spokesperson said the Defense Department and VA are "continuing to fund studies to provide more evidence on the potential long-term effects of burn pit exposure."

Lawmakers in Washington have taken up the cause, introducing multiple bills aiming to change the way the VA deals with veterans who think they're suffering from a burn pit-related illness.

On Tuesday, advocates and legislators led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and the comedian Jon Stewart will take to Capitol Hill to rally in support of a measure, which would force the VA to expand care and benefits to veterans affected by certain burn pit-related illnesses.

In an interview with NBC Nightly News' Lester Holt, Stewart said the situation echoes the aftermath of the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when first-responders were coming down with serious illnesses and health officials were slow to recognize them as being caused by toxins swirling in the air at ground zero.

"What the first responders were standing on top of was essentially a burn pit," he said. "The jet fuel from the planes ignited it, but it was all those materials from the World Trade Center."

Stewart got involved in the effort after being approached by Rosie Torres, the founder of the nonprofit Burn Pits 360. Torres started advocating for veterans suffering from toxic exposure-related illnesses after her husband, an Army veteran, was diagnosed with constrictive bronchiolitis.

"I would challenge any congressperson who says, 'Well, we're going to wait for the science to be settled,' to dig a hundred-yard pit in the middle of a town where your constituents live, and burn everything in that town with jet fuel," Stewart said. "And then come and tell me that, 'Yeah, they're cool with it, because there's a lot of confusion about whether or not the science is settled that this is harmful to your health.'"

For most veterans who think they are suffering from a burn pit or other toxic exposure-related illness, getting the VA to acknowledge their condition and treat them has been a losing battle. Veterans must prove to the VA that they were exposed to a burn pit during their service, and that the exposure caused their condition.

Further complicating matters, veterans affected by toxic exposure often find themselves against the clock when it comes to gaining access to health care through the VA. If veterans don't seek treatment during an initial five-year period in which the VA offers combat veterans free health care—and experts say many of the diseases that stem from toxic exposure typically manifest slowly—they have to wait for their claim to be approved before getting care at a VA facility.

Even if they do meet the burden of proof and have their claim approved, veterans say the approval process can take months to years, wasting precious time for those with terminal illnesses.

Gina Cancelino, whose husband, Joseph, died of an aggressive form of testicular cancer in 2019, said they only learned about the possible link between burn pits and the disease months before he passed away.

"I said, 'Hon, burn pits, burn pits in Iraq,'" she recalls telling the former Marine Corps gunnery sergeant. "'Look, I'm reading about this. Were you near these?' And he's like, 'Yeah, I'm pretty sure I was.'"

Joseph Cancelino, who worked as a New York City Police Department sergeant, had deployed to Iraq in 2003 during the first wave of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now, his wife has made it her mission to piece together his exposure to burn pits.

"Had we known earlier that this was an issue, maybe he goes annually and gets checked," Gina Cancelino said. "Maybe we find it earlier, and we don't give it a chance to harbor in there, and fester in there. So I'm disappointed. I'm disappointed in the lack of communication."

Gen. Michael Heston was one of the rare few whose claims were approved. He served three tours in Afghanistan with the Vermont Army National Guard, and died in 2018 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 58 years old.

Heston's wife, June, said she remembers her husband questioning the safety of the burn pits while he was still deployed. At one of the bases where Heston was stationed, she said, the burn pit was initially near the airfield, but the smoke and soot were interfering with the jet engines, so it was moved to another area of the base, closer to where troops lived and worked.

"He just couldn't understand," she said. "If it's doing that to a jet engine, well, why would you think it would be OK to be moving [it] closer to human beings that are breathing that in?"

When Heston started complaining of back pain and rapidly losing weight in 2016, it took doctors 10 months to deliver a diagnosis.

By that time, the cancer had metastasized to other parts of his body.

Abrams, the Dana-Farber oncologist, had never heard of burn pits before treating Heston. When Heston first explained them, Abrams said, he was shocked.

"I was just horrified because I thought that was probably one of the most toxic kinds of things you could possibly have," Abrams, who is also a faculty member at the Harvard Medical School, said. "It's extremely unhealthy to be exposed to the products of massive combustion for years on end."

Abrams ultimately came to the conclusion that Heston's cancer was likely caused by

his exposure to toxic substances in Afghanistan, and wrote a letter spelling that out to bolster his application for VA benefits.

"Most patients are diagnosed [with pancreatic cancer] in their mid- to late-60s or early 70s," Abrams said. "He had no risk factors, he was not a diabetic, he was in excellent shape. And he had this long term, very significant toxic exposure that was certainly not something that was common at the time."

The VA ultimately acknowledged that Heston's cancer was due to his toxic exposures during service, due in large part, June Heston thinks, to Abrams' letter. But a letter like that is not easy to come by, experts say, because doctors are tasked with treating an illness, not investigating its cause.

"It's very difficult to definitively say that X causes Y," Abrams said. "But on some level, I think it's important to at least acknowledge that exposure to high levels of toxic smoke is a contributor to lots of diseases in general. And I don't think you need to necessarily pore through the data for years to make at least that kind of general claim."

Andrew Myatt deployed to Iraq in 2004 as a combat engineer with the Army National Guard, disarming improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. He believes the acute lymphocytic leukemia he was diagnosed with in 2019 is connected to his exposure to burn pits in Iraq, but when he applied for health care and benefits, the VA denied his claim.

Myatt, 53, said he'd be lost without the help of Anita Ritchie, the senior national service officer at the nonprofit Wounded Warrior Project, who is helping him gather evidence for an appeal.

"Toxic exposure is one of the few instances where there's not a lot of people in the civilian world who know anything about this stuff," Ritchie said.

Myatt said he is happy with his current private health care, but getting the VA to accept that his cancer was related to his service would ensure he has access to medical care in the future.

"If this [cancer] shows up 20 years from now, when I'm retired and living someplace, then I can go to them for help," he said.

In 2014, the VA created a burn pit registry to start tracking the long term health effects for service members who were exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards. Since then, nearly 240,000 current and former service members have joined.

But the practice hasn't stopped. In an April 2019 memo to Congress, the Defense Department acknowledged that it had nine active burn pits at bases throughout the Middle East.

Legislators and advocates are hopeful that this will be the year that burn pit reform makes its way through Congress in part because of a unique connection to President Joe Biden.

In the past, Biden has suggested that his son Beau's deployment to Balad Air Base in Iraq may have had something to do with his brain cancer diagnosis.

Balad Air Base had one of the largest burn pits, spanning more than 10 acres. "Because of exposure to burn pits—in my view, I can't prove it yet—he came back with stage 4 glioblastoma," Biden told a Service Employees International Union convention in 2019.

But for veterans like Scott Evans, who said he was told he had between six months and a year to live, legislation may not come soon enough.

Evans first contacted the VA medical center closest to his home last April after his weight began to plummet and the whites of his eyes had turned yellow. But he said he was told he was ineligible because there was

no evidence his condition was connected to his service and he didn't qualify for financial need.

He was eventually able to start receiving care at the VA in July due to a different condition. The following month, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at age 32.

Evans said he tries not to dwell on how things may have been different if he had been able to access VA care last April.

"Would [the tumor] have been operable? What would the outcome have been of it?" he said. "For me, it's done and over with, we can't change that. But the big thing that I would like to see happen is that if somebody comes in and they need help, and they're a veteran, be able to get that help right away. And let's ask questions later."

Still, Evans said he has no regrets over his military service.

"Even knowing what I know now, and knowing the consequences, I'd still do exactly the same thing, because it was about the guys you're with," he said, pausing to collect himself. "The thing I'm most proud of is everybody who walked behind me has all their limbs, and came back safe. And if the cost of it was getting cancer, that's fine."

Mr. MCGOVERN: Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today understanding that the greatness of America will not be measured by the number of nuclear-powered submarines we have. Its greatness won't be measured by our B-1 bombers or our number of soldiers in uniform. The greatness of our Nation will be measured by how do you treat the persons who fly the B-1 bombers; how do you treat the persons who will take on the challenges of the world who become the front line of democracy; how do you treat them when they return home? This is how the greatness of America will be measured.

The greatness of America will be measured by what kind of housing do we give them, do we help them to transition from military life to a job in civilian life? The greatness of America will be measured by the kind of insurance that they get so that they can have the best healthcare the world can afford.

This bill, this legislation, among other things, expands healthcare services for a larger group of veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, Agent Orange, for example. Many men have died and suffered and didn't get the healthcare that they earned because we allowed a nebulous notion as to what Agent Orange was doing to them to persist. There is a presumption now.

This bill increases the number of veterans without service-connected disabilities who can receive healthcare. If I had my way, you would get all of your healthcare whether service-connected or not. But I don't have my way. But I am going to support this bill because I want my record to show that when I had the chance to help the veterans, I did what I could, and I voted "yes." I didn't cop out. I stood tall with them. I want my record to show that I came to this floor and encouraged my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I have talked a lot today about the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, which is again, the Senate version. That legislation carries the support of leading veteran service organizations, VSOs, including Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wounded Warrior Project, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the American Legion, as well as the Military Officers Association of America.

Again, that Senate version passed unanimously. We could be running that here today and get it on the President's desk at the end of the week. The only thing that stands between getting help to veterans right now in terms of the burn pit issues is the Democrat Party's refusal to just run the Senate version of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding, but more importantly, for his service to our Nation, and when he talks about that bill, you think, in Congress, when can you find something that is bipartisan?

Here you have something come out of the Senate that Republicans and Democrats both agree upon. Republicans on this side of the aisle will vote for that. The only thing holding it up for these veterans are the Democrats. They know the bill they are going to produce won't go anywhere, and hopefully, we can come back and get this done, and it will go to the President's desk. It would have been nice for the President to have a bill before he came for the State of the Union, so he could actually sign something, but unfortunately, politics again gets in the way.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and to support Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS' and Mr. WESTERMAN's legislation.

The crisis in Ukraine is a crisis of American energy security.

Over the past decade, we have had every opportunity to lead. During the previous administration, we were energy independent and an exporter of energy for the first time in 50 years.

Today, however, we have an administration that crippled domestic production. This administration has increased its daily reliance on Russian oil by 34 percent.

As every American is glued to their television to see what is happening in Ukraine, to see the bombing of innocent children and women, there is no one American who would want any of our money to go to fund that. But in this administration, you had actually done that, increased the production of oil and natural gas coming from Russia to America. Meanwhile, it slow-walked oil and natural gas exports to our allies in Europe. In doing so, it made Europe more reliant on Putin.

Today, 40 percent of natural gas and 25 percent of crude oil in Europe comes from Russian. The Biden administra-

tion has made the free world dependent on despots for oil and natural gas from Russia.

We all know that is shameful.

As an economic and energy superpower why are we relying on dictators when we should be supplying the world?

If you are like me and you are concerned about the environment, do you realize that American natural gas is 42 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas? That crude oil could have come from Canada and been refined in America if President Biden hadn't pulled the plug on the Keystone Pipeline. But instead, he allowed Putin to have Nord Stream 2.

For those at home that are wondering, what is the Nord Stream 2 pipeline? It is another pipeline built by Russia to go in to supply natural gas to Europe, but it goes around Ukraine because the current pipeline goes through Ukraine, and Ukraine gets part of the money.

But with this new administration and President Biden going to meet with Mr. Putin, what did he do? He waived the sanctions. But when President Biden watched Putin put hundreds of thousands of men along the border of Ukraine there was an amendment offered in the Senate to put sanctions on Nord Stream 2. People wondered; did it pass? It came close, but it failed.

Do you want to know why it failed? Because the Biden administration used all their political will to lobby against it passing. And more of American millions of dollars went to fund Putin who uses it for his military.

That natural gas that goes to Europe, it could have come from America, from our Federal lands and waters where President Biden hasn't approved a single new lease—not one; he has actually shut them down—and if we had continued the energy policies of the Trump administration, we would actually be safer today and Putin would have less money to fund his military weaponry. Our allies would be safer today, and American families would be paying less for cleaner energy. In California it is more than \$5 a gallon, as you know, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if you can remember back when when it was much less.

Now, I hear from our colleagues on the other side that the reason American resources must stay in the ground is climate change. I listened to Mr. Kerry be interviewed as Russia invaded Ukraine, and he was concerned. This former Secretary of State, now helping in this administration, I thought he would be concerned about the men and women in Ukraine. He was concerned with; would Putin still work with climate change? I think you should tell that to the Ukrainian people. I don't think one of them is concerned about that right now.

Now, I hear our colleagues when they talk about climate change, but if they really studied it, the truth is what I told you before, American natural gas

is 42 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas. And we can guarantee you this, we are not invading Ukraine. We won't use the resources to carpet-bomb, to shoot innocent women and children.

If you are concerned about the environment, like I am, you should support this bill. You could, Mr. Speaker. It immediately approves the Keystone Pipeline because we have waited long enough and can't afford to wait a minute longer. It removes all restriction on liquid natural gas exports so we could become an arsenal of energy for the free world. And it restarts the leases on Federal lands and waters which are being held up by the Biden administration.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting. You have the majority here on the floor. You have the Biden administration. It is in the power of your party. But those six permits that sit at the desk of the Secretary of Energy that could take money away from Putin, provide American jobs, and provide Europe with cleaner natural gas from America still sit there to this day because somehow you think it is better for climate change.

Mr. Speaker, a vote for this bill is a vote to produce more energy for our allies. It means American jobs. It means our allies don't have to deal with Putin, be held hostage to him. It means Putin will not have millions of dollars from Americans to buy the weaponry that he uses to kill innocent people in Ukraine.

A vote for this bill is a vote to provide relief for working families at the pump. It means Americans won't have to pay the high prices they are today.

I know at the White House, when they were asked this question, they said it is okay that the price is high because that way somehow it helps them with climate change if they could get more renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, that is a tax on all Americans, especially low-income. But I don't know, in this administration, they have the highest inflation we have had in 40 years. Somehow, they must think that is positive, too.

Mr. Speaker, in this new administration, when you have crime, we have a border that is not secure. People are coming across the border that are on the terrorist watch list. We now have more fentanyl in America today than at any time, enough to kill every single American seven times over.

Mr. Speaker, I know you would care about this because you know, today, the number one cause of death of those between the ages of 18 to 45 is fentanyl. You know where it comes from, the chemicals of China, across the border of Mexico that no longer is attended to.

Mr. Speaker, I know the President of your party has put the Vice President in charge, and she has been there one time—one time. Every city in America has become a border city today every single weekend.

Mr. Speaker, you know this based upon your background. You see the deaths that are happening. It is unwanted. It is unneeded. And we could do better.

Mr. Speaker, a vote for this bill is a vote to deprive Putin of a major revenue stream.

It is not difficult. There won't be any pressure. All Members have to do is walk onto the floor, take the card out of their pocket, put it in the little box. And if you are somebody that because you are afraid of COVID, you are still home, or you are on a boat, you could still vote by proxy with this majority.

What you could do is you could vote for this bill. You could vote to make America energy independent. You could lower the gas prices. You could take the money out of Putin's hands that he uses to kill innocent people.

Everybody in the world is watching. Mr. Speaker, the sad part, I bet if this bill was on the floor in any country in Europe, it would be 100 percent voted for. I will be watching. I think America will be watching.

Would we stand for America and for freedom? Would we stand for President Zelensky, who didn't take the advice of President Biden and leave his country, who doesn't ask for men and women from America to come to fight? He just asks to provide some weapons so they can defend against Putin.

Mr. Speaker, the sad part about that is every day that we allow crude or natural gas to come from Russia, American money is going to Putin. Let's stop that and stop that today.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the world is watching. And I am not going to be lectured by someone who takes their marching orders from Donald Trump, who said that Putin's invasion of Ukraine was a genius and savvy move. I wish the gentleman would have condemned that.

Listening to that speech, you would think that Joe Biden invaded Ukraine. I mean, he spent all this time criticizing Joe Biden, John Kerry, and everybody else but hardly criticized Vladimir Putin.

You know, look, I also wish, because I think it would be helpful for this country and a signal to the world, if the gentleman who just spoke would reprimand Members of his own party who cozy up to white nationalists and go to pro-Putin rallies. That would send a signal to people in this country and to people around the world on whose side we are on.

Bottom line is, the people of Ukraine are being invaded by a brutal dictator, Vladimir Putin. And when their standard-bearer, Donald Trump, was in charge, he spread propaganda about Ukrainian interference in the 2016 election, which was a lie. He ousted a well-regarded U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine because they weren't doing what he wanted to in terms of finding dirt on his political opponents. He froze military assistance to Ukraine; they said nothing. He withheld a White House

meeting with Zelensky, turned Ukraine policy over to Giuliani—I could go on and on and on.

We are not going to be lectured by them. Instead, we are going to move forward and pass a bill to help America's veterans, with or without them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, so just a quick history lesson. The Obama-Biden administration sent Ukraine blankets and well-wishes. The Trump administration sent Javelin missiles. That is the big difference.

You know, I have said numerous times standing up here that the Democratic Party is a party of political science. I could be even more generous. The Democratic Party is also a party of false choices and false narratives. The Democrats have presented us with a false choice when it comes to U.S. energy and also a false narrative.

Let me be clear: We can unleash domestic energy and be good stewards of the environment. Thanks to American energy innovation, thanks to the energy sector, the U.S., at least under President Trump, was actually reducing carbon emissions. In Pennsylvania, for example, thanks to natural gas, our energy sector has reduced emissions by 41 percent since 2005.

Again, it is an absolutely false choice. It is a false narrative that we cannot unleash the American energy sector and be good stewards of the environment. In fact, quite the opposite. We actually are good stewards of the environment when we are using clean natural gas, particularly from Pennsylvania.

But here to talk more about that issue is my good friend, the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and one of the authors of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS).

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge immediate consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

Innocent blood is being spilled in Ukraine as we speak. Women and children are being separated from their fathers. Democracy is under attack. Freedom must prevail. What do the people in Ukraine want? They want self-determination and independence from Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Russia's economy is entirely dependent upon energy production and exports. Putin uses energy and pipelines as weapons, threatening to cut off supplies or hike prices when the West confronts Russia's aggression. Russia's energy exports fund its military and its current attack on Ukraine. America, not Russia, is the world's number one energy producer. We should act like it and lead.

President Biden must restore American energy dominance and use energy

resources to help Ukraine and Europe fight back. We shouldn't be buying a single barrel of oil from Russia, and our allies shouldn't be beholden to aggressors that attack their freedom. Europe should have the choice to buy American energy and say no to Russian pipelines and Nord Stream 2.

That is why Congressman BRUCE WESTERMAN and I are leading on the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. This bill flips the switch on American energy. We need more pipelines, including Keystone XL, so this bill immediately approves the Keystone XL pipeline so that we can import crude oil from Canada, not Russia.

It also removes all restrictions on U.S. energy exports to deliver natural gas to our allies in Europe, and it restarts oil and gas leasing on our Federal lands and offshore waters.

This is how we shut down Putin's war chest, stand by Ukraine, empower our allies, protect our national security, and create jobs here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to say "no" on this previous question and "yes" on the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am an Iraq war veteran. I was in Baghdad for 6 months in 2009. I can tell you that I am committed to ensuring the men and women who served our Nation receive the care and benefits they deserve. It is of utmost importance to me as a Member of this body and as an Iraq war veteran.

That is the reason why I am so disappointed in my friends across the aisle. I am disappointed that instead of considering the Senate-passed Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act—which, again, could immediately be sent to the President's desk—House Democrats are prioritizing legislation that is still a long way away from enactment and will delay benefits for toxic-exposed veterans.

Let me be clear. We can get help to veterans. We can get this bill to the desk of the President by the end of this week. The only thing standing in the way are my friends on the other side of the aisle.

It is for that reason I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question and vote "no" on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I want to thank and acknowledge Jeff Gohringer, who has served as the communications director for the House Committee on Rules in both the majority and minority over the last 6 years. Today is his last day with the Committee on Rules, and I speak for Members and staff on both sides of the aisle when I say to Jeff that we are grateful

for your years of service in this institution. We wish you well in your future endeavors, and you will always have a home here.

I also thank James Fitzella, who is leaving as well. The staff are incredible on the Committee on Rules, and James will be dearly missed.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying that we heard a lot on the other side and barely a mention about our veterans. The gentlewoman from Washington, who came on the floor just recently and read the oil company talking points, couldn't even bring herself to mention veterans once.

The bill that we are talking about here today is to make sure veterans who have been exposed to toxic chemicals, who get cancer, who get other ailments, get the healthcare they need.

You would like to think that we could all come together on it. The gentleman from Pennsylvania keeps on talking about this narrow bill. I mean, they are not even serious about it because if they were, they would have used the previous question vote, which would give them the right to control the floor, to bring that up. But they didn't. Instead, they are bringing up an oil company's wish list.

This really is obnoxious. I get it. They don't like President Biden, and they will let no crisis go by without trying to make it about President Biden.

But let me just say this: We should be together in standing with the people of Ukraine, and we should be together in standing with our veterans.

The material previously referred to by Mr. RESCHENTHALER is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 950

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 6858) to strengthen United States energy security, encourage domestic production of crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6858.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 202, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 49]

YEAS—221

Adams	Garcia (IL)	O'Halleran
Aguilar	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Alfred	Golden	Omar
Auchincloss	Gomez	Pallone
Axne	Gonzalez,	Panetta
Barragán	Vicente	Pappas
Bass	Gottheimer	Pascarell
Beatty	Green, Al (TX)	Payne
Bera	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Beyer	Harder (CA)	Peters
Bishop (GA)	Hayes	Phillips
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Pingree
Blunt Rochester	Himes	Pocan
Bonamici	Horsford	Porter
Bourdeaux	Houlahan	Pressley
Bowman	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Boyle, Brendan	Huffman	Quigley
F.	Jackson Lee	Raskin
Brown (MD)	Jacobs (CA)	Rice (NY)
Brown (OH)	Jayapal	Ross
Brownley	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Bush	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Bustos	Johnson (TX)	Ruppersberger
Butterfield	Jones	Rush
Carbajal	Kahele	Ryan
Cárdenas	Kaptur	Sánchez
Carson	Keating	Sarbanes
Carter (LA)	Kelly (IL)	Scanlon
Cartwright	Khanna	Schakowsky
Case	Kildee	Schiff
Casten	Kilmer	Schneider
Castor (FL)	Kim (NJ)	Schrader
Castro (TX)	Kind	Schrier
Cherfilus-	Kirkpatrick	Scott (VA)
McCormick	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Chu	Kuster	Sewell
Cicilline	Lamb	Sherman
Clark (MA)	Langevin	Sherrill
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sires
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Slotkin
Clyburn	Lawrence	Smith (WA)
Cohen	Lawson (FL)	Soto
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Spanberger
Cooper	Lee (NV)	Speier
Correa	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Costa	Levin (CA)	Stanton
Courtney	Levin (MI)	Stevens
Craig	Lieu	Strickland
Crist	Lofgren	Suozi
Crow	Lowenthal	Swalwell
Cuellar	Luria	Takano
Davids (KS)	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny K.	Malinowski	Thompson (MS)
Dean	Maloney,	Titus
DeFazio	Carolyn B.	Tlaib
DeGette	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
DeLauro	Manning	Torres (CA)
DelBene	Matsui	Torres (NY)
Delgado	McBath	Trahan
Demings	McCollum	Trone
DeSaulnier	McEachin	Underwood
Deutch	McGovern	Vargas
Dingell	McNerney	Veasey
Doggett	Meeks	Vela
Doyle, Michael	Meng	Velázquez
F.	Moore (WI)	Wasserman
Escobar	Morelle	Schultz
Eshoo	Moulton	Waters
Español	Mrvan	Watson Coleman
Evans	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Fletcher	Nadler	Wexton
Foster	Napolitano	Wild
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Williams (GA)
Gaetz	Neguse	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Newman	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Norcross	

NAYS—202

Aderholt	Biggs	Carey
Allen	Bilirakis	Carl
Amodei	Bishop (NC)	Carter (GA)
Armstrong	Boebert	Carter (TX)
Arrington	Brady	Cawthorn
Babin	Brooks	Chabot
Bacon	Buchanan	Cheney
Baird	Buck	Cline
Balderson	Bucshon	Clyde
Banks	Budd	Cole
Barr	Burchett	Comer
Bentz	Burgess	Crawford
Bergman	Calvert	Crenshaw
Bice (OK)	Cammack	Curtis

Davidson	Jackson	Pence
Davis, Rodney	Jacobs (NY)	Perry
DesJarlais	Johnson (LA)	Pfleger
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Posey
Donalds	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Duncan	Jordan	Reschenthaler
Dunn	Joyce (OH)	Rice (SC)
Ellzey	Joyce (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Emmer	Katko	Rogers (AL)
Estes	Keller	Rogers (KY)
Fallon	Kelly (MS)	Rose
Feenstra	Kelly (PA)	Rosendale
Ferguson	Kim (CA)	Rouzer
Fischbach	Kinzing	Roy
Fitzgerald	LaHood	Rutherford
Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa	Salazar
Fleischmann	Lamborn	Scalise
Fortenberry	Fox	Schweikert
Franklin, C.	LaTurner	Scott, Austin
Scott	Lesko	Sessions
Fulcher	Letlow	Simpson
Garbarino	Long	Smith (MO)
Garcia (CA)	Loudermilk	Smith (NE)
Gibbs	Lucas	Smith (NJ)
Gimenez	Luetkemeyer	Smucker
Gonzales, Tony	Mace	Spartz
Gonzalez (OH)	Malliotakis	Staub
Good (VA)	Mann	Steel
Gooden (TX)	Massie	Stefanik
Gosar	Mast	Steil
Granger	McCarthy	Steube
Graves (LA)	McCaul	Stewart
Graves (MO)	McClain	Tenney
Green (TN)	McClintock	Thompson (PA)
Greene (GA)	McHenry	Tiffany
Griffith	McKinley	Timmons
Grothman	Meijer	Turner
Guest	Meuser	Upton
Guthrie	Miller (WV)	Valadao
Harris	Miller-Meeks	Van Drew
Harshbarger	Moolenaar	Van Duyne
Hartzler	Mooney	Wagner
Hern	Moore (AL)	Walberg
Herrell	Moore (UT)	Walorski
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	Waltz
Hice (GA)	Murphy (NC)	Webster (FL)
Higgins (LA)	Nehls	Wenstrup
Hill	Newhouse	Westerman
Hinson	Norman	Williams (TX)
Hollingsworth	Obenholte	Wilson (SC)
Hudson	Owens	Wittman
Huizenga	Palazzo	Womack
Issa	Palmer	Young

NOT VOTING—9

Bost	Gohmert	Taylor
Cloud	Mfume	Weber (TX)
Gallagher	Miller (IL)	Zeldin

□ 1417

Mr. STEWART changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Correa)	Gonzalez,	Nehls (Cawthorn)
Babin (Norman)	Vicente	Pfleger (Ellzey)
Barragán	(Correa)	Pocan (Jayapal)
(Correa)	Gosar (Greene)	Raskin
Blumenauer	(GA)	(Cicilline)
(Beyer)	Granger (Van	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Duynne)	(Takano)
(Gomez)	Grijalva (Garcia	Rush (Jeffries)
Carter (TX)	(IL))	Scott, David
(Cawthorn)	Johnson (SD)	(Jeffries)
Crist	(Armstrong)	Sessions
(Wasserman	Johnson (TX)	(Duncan)
Schultz)	(Jeffries)	Sires (Pallone)
Cuellar (Correa)	Kahele (Correa)	Strickland
DelBene (Kuster)	Kelly (PA)	(Jeffries)
Deutch (Rice	(Keller)	Suozi (Beyer)
(NY))	Kirkpatrick	Trone (Connolly)
Doggett (Beyer)	(Pallone)	Underwood
Doyle, Michael	Lawson (FL)	(Jeffries)
F. (Connolly)	(Soto)	Van Drew
Evans (Brown	Manning (Beyer)	(Reschenthaler)
(MD))	McEachin	Veasey (Beyer)
Fallon (Jackson)	(Wexton)	Wilson (FL)
Fletcher	Meng (Kuster)	(Cicilline)
(Wexton)	Miller (WV)	
	(LaHood)	

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 200, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 50]

YEAS—220

Adams	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguilar	Golden	Omar
Allred	Gomez	Pallone
Auchincloss	Gonzalez,	Panetta
Axne	Vicente	Pappas
Barragán	Gottheimer	Pascarell
Bass	Green, Al (TX)	Payne
Beatty	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Bera	Harder (CA)	Peters
Beyer	Hayes	Phillips
Bishop (GA)	Higgins (NY)	Pingree
Blumenauer	Himes	Pocan
Blunt Rochester	Horsford	Porter
Bonamici	Houlihan	Pressley
Bourdeaux	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Bowman	Huffman	Quigley
Boyle, Brendan F.	Jackson Lee	Raskin
Brown (MD)	Jacobs (CA)	Rice (NY)
Brown (OH)	Jayapal	Ross
Brownley	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Bush	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Bustos	Johnson (TX)	Ruppersberger
Butterfield	Jones	Rush
Carbajal	Kahele	Ryan
Cárdenas	Kaptur	Sánchez
Carson	Keating	Sarbanes
Carter (LA)	Kelly (IL)	Scanlon
Cartwright	Khanna	Schakowsky
Case	Kildee	Schiff
Casten	Kilmer	Schneider
Castor (FL)	Kim (NJ)	Schrader
Castro (TX)	Kind	Schrier
Cherfilus-	Kirkpatrick	Scott (VA)
McCormick	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Chu	Kuster	Sewell
Ciçilline	Lamb	Sherman
Clark (MA)	Langevin	Sherrill
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sires
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Slotkin
Clyburn	Lawrence	Smith (WA)
Cohen	Lawson (FL)	Soto
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Spanberger
Cooper	Lee (NV)	Speier
Correa	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Costa	Levin (CA)	Stanton
Courtney	Levin (MI)	Stevens
Craig	Lieu	Strickland
Crist	Lofgren	Suozzi
Crow	Lowenthal	Swalwell
Cuellar	Luria	Takano
Davids (KS)	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny K.	Malinowski	Thompson (MS)
Dean	Maloney,	Titus
DeFazio	Carolyn B.	Tlaib
DeGette	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
DeLauro	Manning	Torres (CA)
DeBene	Matsui	Torres (NY)
Delgado	McBath	Trahan
Demings	McCollum	Trone
DeSaulnier	McEachin	Underwood
Deutch	McGovern	Vargas
Dingell	McNerney	Veasey
Doggett	Meeks	Vela
Doyle, Michael F.	Meng	Velázquez
Escobar	Moore (WI)	Wasserman
Eshoo	Morelle	Schultz
Espallat	Moulton	Waters
Evans	Mrvan	Watson Coleman
Fletcher	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Foster	Nadler	Wexton
Frankel, Lois	Napolitano	Wild
Gallo	Neal	Williams (GA)
Garamendi	Neguse	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL)	Newman	Yarmuth
	Norcross	
	O'Halleran	

NAYS—200

Aderholt	Arrington	Banks
Allen	Babin	Barr
Amodei	Bacon	Bentz
Armstrong	Baird	Bergman

Bice (OK)	Green (TN)	Moore (UT)
Biggs	Greene (GA)	Mullin
Billirakis	Griffith	Murphy (NC)
Bishop (NC)	Grothman	Nehls
Boebert	Guest	Newhouse
Brady	Guthrie	Norman
Brooks	Harris	Obenoltz
Buchanan	Harshbarger	Owens
Buck	Hartzler	Palazzo
Bucshon	Hern	Palmer
Budd	Herrrell	Pence
Burchett	Herrera Beutler	Perry
Burgess	Hice (GA)	Pfluger
Calvert	Higgins (LA)	Posey
Cammack	Hill	Reed
Carey	Hinson	Reschenthaler
Carl	Hollingsworth	Rice (SC)
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Rodgers (WA)
Carter (TX)	Huizenga	Rogers (AL)
Cawthorn	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Chabot	Jackson	Rose
Cheney	Jacobs (NY)	Rosendale
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Rouzer
Clyde	Johnson (OH)	Roy
Cole	Johnson (SD)	Rutherford
Comer	Jordan	Salazar
Crenshaw	Joyce (OH)	Scalise
Curtis	Joyce (PA)	Schweikert
Davidson	Katko	Scott, Austin
Davis, Rodney	Keller	Sessions
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Simpson
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Smith (MO)
Donalds	Kim (CA)	Smith (NE)
Duncan	Kustoff	Smith (NJ)
Dunn	LaHood	Smucker
Elizy	LaMalfa	Spartz
Emmer	Lamborn	Stauber
Estes	Latta	Steel
Fallon	LaTurner	Stefanik
Feenstra	Lesko	Steil
Ferguson	Letlow	Steube
Fischbach	Long	Stewart
Fitzgerald	Loudermilk	Tenney
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Tiffany
Fortenberry	Mace	Timmons
Fox	Malliotakis	Turner
Franklin, C.	Mann	Upton
Scott	Massie	Valadao
Fulcher	Mast	Van Drew
Gaetz	McCarthy	Van Duyen
Garbarino	McCaul	Wagner
Garcia (CA)	McClain	Walberg
Gibbs	McClintock	Walorski
Jimenez	McHenry	Waltz
Gonzales, Tony	McKinley	Webster (FL)
Gonzalez (OH)	Meijer	Wenstrup
Good (VA)	Meuser	Westerman
Gooden (TX)	Miller (WV)	Williams (TX)
Gosar	Miller-Meeks	Wilson (SC)
Granger	Moolenaar	Wittman
Graves (LA)	Mooney	Womack
Graves (MO)	Moore (AL)	Young

NOT VOTING—12

Balderson	Gallagher	Miller (IL)
Bost	Gohmert	Taylor
Cloud	Kinzing	Weber (TX)
Crawford	Mfume	Zeldin

□ 1437

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 49 and "nay" on rollcall No. 50.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Correa)	Crist	Fallon (Jackson)
Babin (Norman)	(Wasserman)	Fletcher
Barragán	Schultz	(Wexton)
(Correa)	Cuellar (Correa)	Gonzalez,
Blumenauer	DelBene (Kuster)	Vicente
(Beyer)	Deutch (Rice)	(Correa)
Cárdenas	(NY)	Gosar (Greene
(Gomez)	Doggett (Beyer)	(GA))
Carter (TX)	Doyle, Michael	Granger (Van
(Cawthorn)	F. (Connolly)	Duyn)
	Evans (Brown	Grijalva (García
	(MD))	(IL))

Johnson (SD)	Miller (WV)	Stauber
(Armstrong)	(LaHood)	(Bergman)
Johnson (TX)	Nehls (Cawthorn)	Strickland
(Jeffries)	Pfluger (Ellzey)	(Jeffries)
Kahele (Correa)	Pocan (Jayapal)	Suozzi (Beyer)
Kelly (PA)	Raskin	Trone (Connolly)
(Keller)	(Ciçilline)	Underwood
Kirkpatrick	Roybal-Allard	(Jeffries)
(Pallone)	(Takano)	Van Drew
Lawson (FL)	Rush (Jeffries)	(Reschenthaler)
(Soto)	Scott, David	Veasey (Beyer)
Manning (Beyer)	(Jeffries)	Wilson (FL)
McEachin	Sessions	(Ciçilline)
(Wexton)	(Duncan)	
Meng (Kuster)	Sires (Pallone)	

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 955

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR: Mr. Jacobs of New York.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE AFGHANISTAN WAR COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CORREA). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to Section 1094(c)(2)(A)(xv) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Afghanistan War Commission:

Ms. Shamila Chaudhary, Washington, D.C.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed in the Hall of the House except for Members of Congress, other invitees, and credentialed staff members. All Members, invitees, and staff are required to follow the COVID protocols stated by the Sergeant at Arms in consultation with the Office of Attending Physician.

All seating for the joint session will be assigned by name, both on the floor of the House and in the House gallery. Members will be required to sit in their

assigned seat or gallery, and the Sergeant at Arms will assist Members in finding their seats.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2037

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69 TO RE- CEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR);

The gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE); and

The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Sen-

ators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT); and

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William J. Walker, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Madam Speaker, Madam Vice President, our First Lady and Second Gentleman, Members of Congress and the Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court, my fellow Americans, last year, COVID-19 kept us apart. This year, we are finally together again.

Tonight, we meet as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents but, most

importantly, as Americans with a duty to one another, to America, to the American people, and to the Constitution, and with an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.

Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought to shake the very foundations of the free world, thinking he could make it bend to his menacing ways. But he badly miscalculated.

He thought he could roll over Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead, he met with a wall of strength he never anticipated or imagined. He met the Ukrainian people.

From President Zelensky to every Ukrainian, their fearlessness, their courage, their determination literally inspires the world—groups of citizens blocking tanks with their bodies, everyone from students, to retirees, to teachers turned soldiers defending their homeland.

And in this struggle, President Zelensky said in his speech to the European Parliament: "Light will win over darkness."

The Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States is here tonight, sitting with the First Lady. Let's each of us, if you are able to stand, stand and send an unmistakable signal to the world and to Ukraine.

She is bright, she is strong, and she is resolved.

Yes, we, the United States of America, stand with the Ukrainian people.

Throughout our history, we have learned this lesson: When dictators do not pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos. They keep moving. And the cost and the threats to America and to the world keep rising. That is why the NATO alliance was created, to secure peace and stability in Europe after World War II.

The United States is a member, along with 29 other nations. It matters. American diplomacy matters. American resolve matters.

Putin's latest attack on Ukraine was premeditated and totally unprovoked. He rejected repeated efforts at diplomacy. He thought the West and NATO wouldn't respond. He thought he could divide us at home, in this Chamber and this Nation. He thought he could divide us in Europe as well.

But Putin was wrong. We are ready. We are united. And that is what we did. We stayed united. We prepared extensively and carefully. We spent months building coalitions of other freedom-loving nations in Europe and the Americas, to the Asia and the African continents, to confront Putin.

Like many of you, I spent countless hours unifying our European allies. We shared with the world in advance what we knew Putin was planning and precisely how he would try to falsify and justify his aggression.

We countered Russia's lies with the truth. And now that he has acted, the free world is holding him accountable, along with 27 members of the European Union, including France, Germany,

Italy, as well as countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and many others, even Switzerland, that are inflicting pain on Russia and supporting the people of Ukraine. Putin is now isolated from the world more than he has ever been.

Together, along with our allies, we are right now enforcing powerful economic sanctions. We are cutting off Russia's largest bank from the international financial system, preventing Russia's central bank from defending the Russian ruble, making Putin's \$630 billion war fund worthless.

We are choking Russia's access to technology that will sap its economic strength and weaken its military for years to come.

Tonight, I say to the Russian oligarchs and the corrupt leaders who have bilked billions of dollars off this violent regime, no more. I mean it.

The United States Department of Justice is assembling a dedicated task force to go after the crimes of the Russian oligarchs. We are joining with European allies to find and seize their yachts, their luxury apartments, their private jets. We are coming for your ill-begotten gains.

And tonight, I am announcing that we will join our allies in closing off American airspace to all Russian flights, further isolating Russia and adding an additional squeeze on their economy.

He has no idea what is coming.

The ruble has already lost 30 percent of its value. The Russian stock market has lost 40 percent of its value, and trading remains suspended. The Russian economy is reeling, and Putin alone is the one to blame.

Together with our allies, we are providing support to the Ukrainians in their fight for freedom—military assistance, economic assistance, humanitarian assistance.

We are giving more than a billion dollars of direct assistance to Ukraine, and we will continue to aid the Ukrainian people as they defend their country and help ease their suffering.

But let me be clear. Our forces are not engaged and will not engage in the conflict with Russian forces in Ukraine. Our forces are not going to Europe to fight Ukraine but to defend our NATO allies in the event that Putin decides to keep moving west.

For that purpose, we have mobilized American ground forces, air squadrons, ship deployments to protect NATO countries, including Poland, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

And as I have made crystal clear, the United States and our allies will defend every inch of territory that is NATO territory with the full force of our collective power—every single inch.

And we are clear-eyed. The Ukrainians are fighting back with pure courage. But the next few days, weeks, and months will be hard on them.

Putin has unleashed violence and chaos. But while he may make gains on

the battlefield, he will pay a continuing high price over the long run. And the Ukrainian people, the proud, proud people, pound for pound are ready to fight with every inch of energy they have. They have known 30 years of independence, have repeatedly shown that they will not tolerate anyone who tries to take their country backward.

To all Americans, I will be honest with you, as I always promised I would be. A Russian dictator invading a foreign country has costs around the world. And I am taking robust action to make sure the pain of our sanctions is targeted at Russia's economy and that we use every tool at our disposal to protect American businesses and consumers.

Tonight, I can announce the United States has worked with 30 other countries to release 60 million barrels of oil from reserves around the world. America will lead that effort, releasing 30 million barrels of our own Strategic Petroleum Reserve. And we stand ready to do more if necessary, united with our allies.

These steps will help blunt gas prices here at home, but I know news about what is happening can seem alarming to all Americans. But I want you to know we are going to be okay. We are going to be okay.

When the history of this era is written, Putin's war on Ukraine will have left Russia weaker and the rest of the world stronger.

While it shouldn't have taken something so terrible for people around the world to see what is at stake, now everyone sees it clearly.

We see the unity among leaders of nations, a more unified Europe, a more unified West. We see unity among the people who are gathering in cities in large crowds around the world, even in Russia, to demonstrate their support for the people of Ukraine.

In the battle between democracy and autocracy, democracies are rising to the moment, and the world is clearly choosing the side of peace and security.

This is the real test, and it is going to take time. So let us continue to draw inspiration from the iron will of the Ukrainian people.

To our fellow Ukrainian Americans who forge a deep bond that connects our two nations, we stand with you. We stand with you.

Putin may circle Kyiv with tanks, but he will never gain the hearts and souls of the Ukrainian people. He will never extinguish their love of freedom, and he will never, ever weaken the resolve of the free world.

We meet tonight in an America that has lived through two of the hardest years this Nation has ever faced. The pandemic has been punishing, and so many families are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food, gas, housing, and so much more.

I understand, like many of you do. My dad had to leave his home in Scranton,

Pennsylvania, to find work. So like many of you, I grew up in a family where if the price of food went up, it was felt throughout the family. It had an impact.

That is why one of the first things I did as President was to fight to pass the American Rescue Plan, because people were hurting. We needed to act, and we did. Few pieces of legislation have done more at a critical moment in our history to lift us out of a crisis. It fueled our efforts to vaccinate the Nation and combat COVID-19. It delivered immediate economic relief to tens of millions of Americans. It helped put food on the table. Remember those long lines of cars waiting for hours just to get a box of food put in their trunk? It cut the cost of healthcare insurance. As my dad used to say, it gave the people just a little bit of breathing room.

Unlike the \$2 trillion tax cut passed in the previous administration that benefited the top 1 percent of Americans, the American Rescue Plan helped working people and left no one behind.

And it worked. It worked. It created jobs, lots of jobs. In fact, our economy created over 6.5 million new jobs just last year, more jobs in 1 year than ever before in the history of the United States of America.

The economy grew at a rate of 5.7 percent last year, the strongest growth rate in 40 years, and the first step in bringing fundamental change to our economy that hasn't worked for the working people in this Nation for too long.

For the past 40 years, we were told that if we gave tax breaks to those at the very top the benefits would trickle down and everyone would benefit. But that trickle-down theory led to weaker economic growth, lower wages, bigger deficits, and a widening gap between the top and everyone else in nearly a century.

Look, Vice President Harris and I ran for office—and I realize we have fundamental disagreements on this—but we ran for office with a new economic vision for America. Invest in America. Educate Americans. Grow the workforce. Build the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, not from the top down. Because we know when the middle class grows, the poor have a ladder up and the wealthy do very well.

America used to have the best roads, bridges, and airports on Earth. Now, our infrastructure is ranked thirteenth in the world. We won't be able to compete for the jobs of the 21st century if we don't fix it. That is why it was so important to pass the bipartisan infrastructure law, and I thank my Republican friends who joined to invest to rebuild America, the single biggest investment in history. It was a bipartisan effort, and I want to thank the members of both parties who worked to make it happen.

We are done talking about infrastructure weeks. We are now talking about an infrastructure decade.

Look, it is going to transform America and put us on a path to win the economic competition of the 21st century that we face with the rest of the world, particularly China.

I have told Xi Jinping it has never been a good bet to bet against the American people. We will create good jobs for millions of Americans, modernizing roads, airports, ports, and waterways all across America, and we will do it to withstand the devastating effects of climate change and promoting environmental justice.

We will build a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, begin to replace the poisonous lead pipes so every child, every American has clean water to drink at home and at school. We are going to provide affordable high-speed internet for every American—rural, suburban, urban, and Tribal communities.

Four thousand projects have already been announced. Many of you have announced them in your districts. Tonight, I am announcing that this year, we will start fixing over 65,000 miles of highway and 1,500 bridges in disrepair.

Folks, when we use taxpayer dollars to rebuild America, we are going to do it by buying American. Buy American products, support Americans jobs.

The Federal Government spends about \$600 billion a year to keep this country safe and secure. There has been a law on the books for almost a century to make sure taxpayers' dollars support American jobs and businesses. Every administration, Democrat or Republican, says they will do it, but we are actually doing it. We will buy American to make sure everything from the deck of an aircraft carrier to the steel on highway guardrails is made in America from beginning to end, all of it.

But, folks, to compete for the jobs of the future, we also need a level playing field with China and other competitors. That is why it is so important to pass the bipartisan Innovation Act sitting in Congress that will make record investments in emerging technologies and American manufacturing.

We used to invest almost 2 percent of our GDP in research and development. We don't now, can't. China is.

Let me give you one example of why it is so important to pass. If you travel 20 miles east of Columbus, Ohio, you will find 1,000 empty acres of land. It won't look like much, but if you stop and look closely, you will see a field of dreams, the ground on which America's future will be built.

That is where Intel, the American company that helped build Silicon Valley, is going to build a \$20 billion semiconductor mega site, up to eight state-of-the-art factories in one place, 10,000 new jobs. In those factories, the average job is about \$135,000 a year, some of the most sophisticated manufacturing in the world, to make computer chips the size of a fingertip that power the world and our everyday lives, from smartphones, technology of the inter-

net, technology that is yet to be invented. But that is just the beginning.

Intel's CEO, Pat Gelsinger, who is here tonight—I don't know where Pat is.

There you go. Pat, stand up.

Pat came to see me, and he told me they are ready to increase their investment from \$20 billion to \$100 billion. That would be the biggest investment in manufacturing in American history. All they are waiting for is for you to pass this bill. So let's not wait any longer. Send it to my desk, I will sign it, and we will really take off in a big way.

Folks, Intel is not alone. There is something happening in America. Just look around, and you will see an amazing story, the rebirth of pride that comes from stamping products "made in America," the revitalization of American manufacturing. Companies are choosing to build new factories here, when just a few years ago, they would have gone overseas.

That is what is happening. Ford is investing \$11 billion in electric vehicles, creating 11,000 jobs across the country.

GM is making the largest investment in its history, \$7 billion to build electric vehicles, creating 4,000 jobs in Michigan. All told, 369,000 new manufacturing jobs were created in America last year alone.

Powered by people I have met like JoJo Burgess, from generations of union steelworkers from Pittsburgh, who is here with us tonight. Where are you, JoJo? There you go. Thanks, Buddy.

As Ohio Senator SHERROD BROWN says, "It is time to bury the label 'Rust Belt.'" It is time to see what used to be called the Rust Belt become the home of a significant resurgence of manufacturing.

With all the bright spots in our economy, record job growth and higher wages, too many families are struggling to keep up with their bills. Inflation is robbing them of the gains they might otherwise feel. I get it. That is why my top priority is getting prices under control.

Look, our economy roared back faster than almost anyone predicted, but the pandemic meant that businesses had a hard time hiring enough people because of the pandemic to keep up production in their factories. So you didn't have people making those beams that went into buildings because they were out, the factory was closed.

The pandemic also disrupted the global supply chain. When factories close, it takes longer to make goods and get them from the warehouses to the stores, and prices go up. Look at cars last year. One-third of all the inflation was because of automobile sales. There weren't enough semiconductors to make all the cars that people wanted to buy. And guess what? Prices of automobiles went way up. Especially used vehicles as well.

And so we have a choice. One way to fight inflation is to drive down wages

and make Americans poorer. I think I have a better idea to fight inflation. Lower your costs, not your wages.

Folks, that means make more cars and semiconductors in America.

More infrastructure and innovation in America.

More goods moving faster and cheaper in America.

More jobs where you can earn a good living in America.

Instead of relying on foreign supply chains, let's Make It In America.

Look, economists call this increasing the productive capacity of our economy. I call it building a better America.

My plan to fight inflation will lower your costs and lower the deficit. Seventeen Nobel laureates in economics say my plan will ease long-term inflationary pressures. Top business leaders, and I believe most Americans, support the plan.

And here is the plan: First, cut the cost of prescription drugs. We pay more for the same drug produced by the same company in America than any other country in the world.

Just look at insulin. One in ten Americans has diabetes. In Virginia I met a 13-year-old boy, the handsome young man standing up there, Joshua Davis. He and his dad both have type 1 diabetes, which means they need insulin every single day. Insulin costs about \$10 a vial to make. That is what it costs the pharmaceutical company. But drug companies charge families like Joshua and his dad up to 30 times that amount.

I spoke with Joshua's mom. Imagine what it is like to look at your child who needs insulin to stay healthy and have no idea how in God's name you are going to be able to pay for it. What it does to your family, but what it does to your dignity, your ability to look your child in the eye, to be the parent you expect yourself to be. I really mean it. Think about that. That is what I think about.

Joshua is here tonight, but yesterday was his birthday. Happy birthday, Buddy, by the way. For Joshua, and for the 200,000 other young people with type 1 diabetes, let's cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month so everyone can afford it.

And drug companies will do, very, very well, their profit margin. And while we are at it, I know we have had great disagreements on this floor with this, let's let Medicare negotiate the price of prescription drugs. They already set the price for VA drugs.

Look, the American Rescue Plan is helping millions of families on Affordable Care Act plans to save them \$2,400 a year on their healthcare premiums. Let's close the coverage gap and make these savings permanent.

Second, let's cut energy costs for families an average of \$500 a year by combating climate change.

Let's provide investments and tax credits to weatherize your homes and businesses to be energy efficient, and

you get a tax credit for it. Double America's clean energy production in solar, wind, and so much more. Lower the price of electric vehicles, saving another \$80 a month that you are not going to have to pay at the pump.

The third thing we can do to change the standard of living for hardworking folks is cut the cost of childcare. If you live in a major city in America, you pay up to \$14,000 a year for childcare per child. I was a single dad for 5 years, raising two kids. I had a lot of help, though. I had a mom, a dad, a brother, and a sister that really helped. But middle-class and working folks shouldn't have to pay more than 7 percent of their income to care for their young children.

My plan would cut the cost of childcare in half for most families and help parents, including millions of women who left the workforce during the pandemic because they couldn't afford childcare, to be able to get back to work, generating economic growth.

My plan doesn't stop there. It also includes home- and long-term care. More affordable housing. Pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds. All of these will lower costs for families.

Under my plan nobody—let me say this again—nobody earning less than \$400,000 a year will pay an additional penny in new taxes. Not a single penny.

I may be wrong, but my guess is if we took a secret ballot on this floor that we would all agree that the present tax system ain't fair. We have to fix it.

I am not looking to punish anybody, but let's make corporations and wealthy Americans start paying their fair share. Last year, like CHRIS COONS and TOM CARPER and my distinguished Congresswoman, we come from the land of corporate America. There are more corporations incorporated in Delaware than every other State in America combined, and I still won 36 years in a row. The point is, even they understand that they should pay their fair share.

Last year 55 of the Fortune 500 companies earned \$40 billion in profit and paid zero in Federal taxes. Look, it is not fair. That is why I proposed a 15 percent minimum tax rate for corporations.

We got more than 130 countries to agree on a global minimum tax rate, so companies can't get out of paying their taxes at home by shipping jobs and factories overseas. That will raise billions of dollars.

That is why I propose closing loopholes for the very wealthy who pay a lower tax rate than a teacher and a firefighter.

So that is my plan, but we have to go into more detail later. We will grow the economy, lower the costs to families.

So what are we waiting for? Let's get this done. We all know we have to make changes.

Folks, while you are at it, confirm my nominees for the Federal Reserve, which plays a critical role in fighting inflation.

My plan will not only lower costs and give families a fair shot, it will lower the deficit.

The previous administration not only ballooned the deficit with those tax cuts for the very wealthy and corporations, it undermined the watchdogs, the job of those to keep the pandemic relief funds from being wasted.

Remember, we had those debates about whether or not those watchdogs should be able to see every day how much money was being spent, and was it going to the right place? Under my administration, the watchdogs are back.

And we are going to go after the criminals who stole billions of relief money meant for small businesses and millions of Americans. And, tonight, I am announcing that the Justice Department will soon name a chief prosecutor for pandemic fraud.

Look, I think we all agree—thank you—by the end of this year, the deficit will be down to less than half of what it was before I took office, the only President ever to cut the deficit by more than \$1 trillion in a single year.

Lowering your costs also means demanding more competition. I am a capitalist, but capitalism without competition is not capitalism. Capitalism without competition is exploitation.

It drives up prices. When corporations don't have to compete, their profits go up. Your prices go up when they don't have to compete. Small businesses and family farmers and ranchers go under. I need not tell some of my Republican friends from those States. Guess what? You have four basic meatpacking facilities. That is it. You play with them or you don't get to play at all, and you pay a hell of a lot more, a hell of a lot more, because there are only four.

We see what is happening with ocean carriers moving goods in and out of America. During the pandemic, about half a dozen or less foreign-owned companies raised prices by as much as 1,000 percent and made record profits. Tonight, I am announcing a crackdown on those companies overcharging American businesses and consumers.

Folks, as Wall Street firms take over more nursing homes, quality in those homes has gone down, and costs have gone up. That ends on my watch.

Medicare is going to set higher standards for nursing homes and make sure your loved ones get the care they deserve and that they expect, and they are looked at closely.

We are also going to cut costs to keep the economy going strong and give workers a fair shot, provide more training and apprenticeships, hire them based on skills, not just their degrees.

Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and paid leave, raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and extend the child tax credit so no one has to raise a family in poverty.

Let's increase Pell grants and increase our historic support of HBCUs

and invest in what Jill, our First Lady who teaches full time, calls America's best-kept secret, community colleges.

Look, let's pass the PRO Act. When a majority of workers want to form a union, they shouldn't be able to be stopped.

When we invest in our workers, when we build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out together, we can do something we haven't done in a long time: build a better America.

For more than 2 years, COVID has impacted every decision in our lives and the life of this Nation. And I know you are tired, frustrated, and exhausted. And that doesn't even count close to a million people who sit at a dining room table or a kitchen table and look at an empty chair because they lost somebody.

But I also know this: Because of the progress we have made, because of your resilience and the tools that we have been provided by this Congress, tonight I can say we are moving forward safely, back to more normal routines.

We have reached a new moment in the fight against COVID-19, where severe cases are down to a level not seen since July of last year. Just a few days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new mask guidelines.

Under the new guidelines, most Americans and most of the country can now go mask free. And based on projections, more of the country will reach that point across the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to the progress we have made in the past year, COVID-19 no longer need control our lives. I know some are talking about living with COVID-19, but tonight, I say that we never will just accept living with COVID-19. We will continue to combat the virus as we do other diseases. And because this virus mutates and spreads, we have to stay on guard.

Here are four commonsense steps as we move forward safely, in my view.

First, stay protected with vaccines and treatments. We know how incredibly effective vaccines are. If you are vaccinated and boosted, you have the highest degree of protection. We will never give up on vaccinating more Americans.

Now, I know parents with kids under 5 are eager to see vaccines authorized for their children. Scientists are working hard to get that done, and we will be ready with plenty of vaccines if and when they do.

We are also ready with antiviral treatments. If you get COVID-19, the Pfizer pill reduces your chances of ending up in a hospital by 90 percent.

I have ordered more pills than anyone in the world has. Pfizer is working overtime to get us a million pills this month and more than double that next month.

And now we are launching the Test to Treat initiative so people can get tested at a pharmacy and, if they prove positive, receive the antiviral pills on the spot at no cost.

Folks, if you are immunocompromised or have some other vulnerability, we have treatments and free high-quality masks. We are leaving no one behind or ignoring anyone's needs as we move forward.

On testing, we have made hundreds of millions of tests available, and you can order them for free to your doorstep. And we have already ordered free tests. If you already ordered free tests, tonight, I am announcing you can order another group of tests. Go to covidtests.gov starting next week, and you can get more tests.

Second, we must prepare for new variants. Over the past year, we have gotten much better at detecting new variants. If necessary, we will be able to develop new vaccines within 100 days instead of maybe months or years.

And, if Congress provides the funds we need, we will have new stockpiles of tests, masks, and pills ready, if needed.

I can't promise a new variant won't come, but I can promise you we will do everything in our power if it does.

Third, we can end the shutdown of schools and businesses. We have the tools we need.

It is time for America to get back to work and fill our great downtowns again with people. People working from home can feel safe and begin to return to their offices.

We are doing that here in the Federal Government. The vast majority of Federal workers will once again work in person.

Our schools are open. Let's keep it that way. Our kids need to be in school.

And with 75 percent of adult Americans fully vaccinated and hospitalizations down by 77 percent, most Americans can remove their masks, stay in the classroom, and move forward safely. We achieved this because we provided free vaccines, treatments, tests, and masks.

Of course, continuing this costs money. So it will not surprise you, I will be back to see you all, and I am going to soon send a request to Congress. The vast majority of Americans have used these tools and may want to again, may need them again, so I expect Congress—I hope you will pass that quickly.

Fourth, we will continue vaccinating the world. We have sent 475 million vaccine doses to 112 countries, more than any nation on Earth. We won't stop because you can't build a wall high enough to keep out a pandemic. The vaccine can stop the spread of this disease.

You know, we have lost so much to COVID-19—time with one another and, worst of all, so much loss of life. Let's use this moment to reset. Let's stop looking at COVID-19 as a partisan dividing line and see it for what it is: a god-awful disease. Let's stop seeing each other as enemies and start seeing each other for who we are: fellow Americans.

Look, we can't change how divided we have been. It is a long time coming.

But we can change how to move forward—on COVID-19 and other issues that we must face together.

I recently visited the New York City Police Department days after the funerals of Officer Wilbert Mora and his partner, Officer Jason Rivera. They were responding to a 911 call when a man shot and killed them with a stolen gun. Officer Mora was 27 years old; Officer Rivera was 22 years old—both Dominican Americans who grew up in the same streets that they later chose to patrol as police officers.

I spoke with their families, and I told them that we are forever in debt for their sacrifices, and we will carry on their mission to restore the trust and safety every community deserves.

Like some of you that have been around for a while, I have worked with you on these issues for a long time. I know what works: investing in crime prevention and community policing—cops who walk the beat, who know the neighborhood, and who can restore trust and safety.

Let's not abandon our streets or choose between safety and equal justice. Let's come together and protect our communities, restore trust, and hold law enforcement accountable.

That is why the Justice Department has required body cameras, banned choke holds, and restricted no-knock warrants for its officers.

That is why the American Rescue Plan provided \$350 billion that cities, States, and counties can use to hire more police and invest in more proven strategies, like community violence interruption—trusted messengers breaking the cycle of violence and trauma and giving young people some hope.

We should all agree: The answer is not to defund the police. It is to fund the police. Fund them. Fund them. Fund them with resources and training, resources and training they need to protect our communities.

I ask Democrats and Republicans alike to pass my budget and keep our neighborhoods safe. And I will do everything in my power to crack down on gun trafficking and ghost guns that you can buy online, assemble at home—no serial numbers, can't be traced.

I asked Congress to pass proven measures to reduce gun violence, pass universal background checks. Why should anyone on the terrorist list be able to purchase a weapon? Why?

Folks, ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines that hold up to 100 rounds. You think the deer are wearing Kevlar vests?

Look, repeal the liability shield that makes gun manufacturers the only industry in America that can't be sued, the only one. Imagine had we done that with the tobacco manufacturers. These laws don't infringe on the Second Amendment. They save lives.

The most fundamental right in America is the right to vote and have it counted. And, look, it is under as-

sault. In State after State, new laws have been passed, not only to suppress the vote—we have been there before—but to subvert the entire election. We can't let this happen.

Tonight, I call on the Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act, pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. And while you are at it, pass the DISCLOSE Act so Americans know who is funding our elections.

Tonight, I would like to honor someone who has dedicated his life to serve this country, Justice Breyer—an Army veteran, constitutional scholar, retiring Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Breyer, thank you for your service. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I mean it. Get up. Stand, let them see you.

And we all know, no matter what your ideology, we all know one of the most serious constitutional responsibilities a President has is nominating someone to serve on the United States Supreme Court, as I did 4 days ago. I have nominated the circuit court of appeals' Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of our Nation's top legal minds who will continue Justice Breyer's legacy of excellence.

A former top litigator in private practice, a former Federal public defender, from a family of public school educators and police officers, she is a consensus-builder. Since she has been nominated, she has received a broad range of support, including the Fraternal Order of Police and former judges appointed by Democrats and Republicans.

Folks, if we are to advance liberty and justice, we need to secure our border and fix the immigration system. And as you might guess, I think we can do both.

At our border, we have installed new technologies, like cutting-edge scanners to better detect drug smuggling. We have set up joint patrols with Mexico and Guatemala to catch more human traffickers.

We are putting in place dedicated immigration judges in a significant, larger number so families fleeing persecution and violence can have their cases heard faster, and those who are not legitimately here can be sent back.

We are securing commitments and supporting partners in South and Central America to host more refugees and secure their own borders. We can do all this while keeping lit the torch of liberty that has led generations of immigrants to this land—my forebearers and many of yours.

Provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and those with temporary status, farmworkers and essential workers. Revise our laws so businesses have the workers they need, and families don't wait decades to reunite.

It is not only the right thing to do. It is the economically smart thing to do. That is why immigration reform is supported by everyone from labor unions to religious leaders to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Let's get it done once and for all.

Folks, advancing liberty and justice also requires protecting the rights of women. The constitutional right affirmed by *Roe v. Wade*, standing precedent for half a century, is under attack as never before.

If we want to go forward, not backward, we must protect access to healthcare, preserve a woman's right to choose, and continue to advance maternal healthcare in America.

And, folks, for our LGBTQ-plus Americans, let's finally get the bipartisan Equality Act to my desk. The onslaught of State laws targeting transgender Americans and their families, it is simply wrong.

I said last year, especially to our younger transgender Americans, I will always have your back as your President so you can be yourself and reach your God-given potential.

Folks, as I have just demonstrated, while it often appears we do not agree, we do agree on a lot more things than we acknowledge. I signed 80 bipartisan bills into law last year, from preventing government shutdowns, to protecting Asian Americans from still-too-common hate crimes, to reforming military justice. And soon, we will strengthen the Violence Against Women Act that I first wrote three decades ago.

It is important for us to show the Nation we can come together and do big things. Tonight, I am offering a unity agenda for the Nation. Four big things we can do together.

First, beat the opioid epidemic. There is so much we can do. Increase funding for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery. Get rid of outdated rules that stop doctors from prescribing treatments. Stop the flow of illicit drugs by working with State and local law enforcement to go after traffickers. If you are suffering from addiction, know you are not alone. I believe in recovery, and I celebrate the 23 million Americans in recovery.

Second, let's take on mental health, especially among our children whose lives and education have been turned upside down. The American Rescue Plan gave schools money to hire teachers and help students to make up for lost learning. I urge every parent to make sure your school does just that, they have the money. We can all play a part—sign up to be a tutor or a mentor. Children were also struggling before the pandemic: bullying, violence, trauma, and the harms of social media.

As Frances Haugen—who is here tonight with us—has shown, we must hold social media platforms accountable for the national experiment they are conducting on our children for profit. Thank you for the courage you showed.

It is time to strengthen privacy protection, ban targeted advertising to children, demand tech companies stop collecting personal data on our children. Let's get all Americans the mental health services they need, more

people they can turn to for help, and full parity between physical and mental healthcare if we treat it that way in our insurance.

The third piece of that agenda is support our veterans. Veterans are the backbone and the spine of this country. They are the best of us. I have always believed that we have a sacred obligation to equip all those we send to war and care for them and their family when they come home.

My administration is providing assistance in job training, housing, and now helping lower-income veterans get VA care debt-free. Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have faced many dangers. One was stationed at bases and breathing in toxic smoke from burn pits. Many of you have been there. I have been in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan over 40 times. These burn pits incinerate waste, the waste of war—medical, hazardous material, jet fuel, and so much more.

When they come home, many of the world's fittest and best-trained warriors in the world are never the same—headaches, numbness, dizziness, and a cancer that would put them in a flag-draped coffin. I know. One of those soldiers was my son, Major Beau Biden.

I don't know for sure if the burn pit that he lived near—that his hooch was near in Iraq, and earlier than that in Kosovo—was the cause of his brain cancer, or the diseases of so many of our troops, but I am committed to finding out everything we can.

I am committed to military families like Danielle Robinson from Ohio, the widow of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson. He was born a soldier, Army National Guard, combat medic in Kosovo and Iraq. He was stationed near Baghdad just yards from burn pits the size of football fields.

Danielle is here with us tonight. They loved going to Ohio State football games. They loved building Legos with their daughter, but cancer from prolonged exposure to burn pits ravaged Heath's lungs and body. Danielle says Heath was a fighter to the very end. He didn't know how to stop fighting, and neither did she.

Through her pain she found purpose to demand that we do better. Tonight, Danielle, we are going to do better. The VA is pioneering new ways of linking toxic exposure to diseases and is already helping more veterans get benefits. Tonight, I am announcing we are expanding eligibility to veterans suffering from nine respiratory cancers.

I am also calling on Congress to pass a law to make sure veterans devastated by toxic exposure in Iraq and Afghanistan finally get the benefits and comprehensive healthcare they deserve.

Fourth, and last, let's end cancer as we know it. This is personal. This is personal to Jill and me, KAMALA, and so many of you. So many of you have lost someone you loved: husband, wife, son, daughter, mom, dad.

Cancer is the number two cause of death in America, second only to heart

disease. Last month I announced the plan to supercharge the Cancer Moonshot that President Obama asked me to lead 6 years ago. Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years—and I think we can do better than that—turn more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases, and more support for patients and their families.

To get there, I call on Congress to fund what I called ARPA-H, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. It is patterned after DARPA, the Defense Department project that led to the internet, GPS, and so much more that make our forces safer and able to wage war with more clarity.

ARPA-H will have a singular purpose, to drive breakthroughs in cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and more. A unity agenda for the Nation. We can do these things. It is within our power. I don't see a partisan edge to any one of those four things.

My fellow Americans, tonight we have gathered in this sacred space, the citadel of our democracy. In this Capitol, generation after generation, Americans have debated great questions amid great strife and have done great things. We fought for freedom, expanded liberty, defeated totalitarianism and terror.

We built the strongest, freest, and most prosperous Nation the world has ever known. Now is the hour, our moment of responsibility, and our test of resolve and conscience, of history itself. It is in this moment that our character of this generation is formed, our purpose is found, our future is forged.

Well, I know this Nation, we will meet the test, protect freedom and liberty, expand fairness and opportunity, and we will save democracy. As hard as those times have been, I am more optimistic about America today than I have been my whole life because I see the future that is within our grasp because I know there is simply nothing beyond our capacity.

We are the only nation on Earth that has always turned every crisis we have faced into an opportunity. We are the only nation that can be defined by a single word: possibilities.

So on this night, in our 245th year as a nation, I have come to report on the state of the Union, and my report is this: The state of the Union is strong because you, the American people, are strong. We are stronger today than we were a year ago, and we will be stronger a year from now than we are today.

Now is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time, and we will as one people, one America—the United States of America.

May God bless you all. May God protect our troops.

Go get him.
(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts). Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3523. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Data Book for 2019, pursuant to Public Law 115-271; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3524. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus paralicheniformis* strain CH2970; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0737; FRL-9094-01-OCSPP] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3525. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; AK; Incorporation by Reference Updates and Permit Program Revisions [EPA-R10-OAR-2021-0216; FRL-9168-02-R10] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A);

Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3526. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Arizona State Implementation Plan Revisions; Maricopa County Air Quality Department; Stationary Source Permits; New Source Review [EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0352; FRL-9463-01-R9] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3527. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Base Year Emissions Inventory for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0441; FRL-9160-02-R5] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3528. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Montana; Administrative Rule Revisions; 17.8.334 [EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0477; FRL-9543-01-R8] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3529. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus subtilis* strain CH3000; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0736; FRL-9093-01-OCSPP] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3530. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3531. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's FY 2022 Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3532. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3533. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment and Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2021 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3534. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2021 FISMA Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3535. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2021 No Fear

Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3536. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2021 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1827(a)(2); Sept. 21, 1950, ch. 967, Sec. 2(17)(a) (as amended by Public Law 101-73, Sec. 220(a)); (103 Stat. 263) and 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Supplemental report on H.R. 3967. A bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-249 Pt. 2).

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MENG, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6877. A bill to establish limitations on the use of no-knock warrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SPIER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6878. A bill to address the health needs of incarcerated women related to pregnancy and childbirth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAWTHORN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MAST, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 6879. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of those who led and served during the first Task Force Pineapple

mission to, directly and indirectly, help Americans and Afghan special operators and their families; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 6880. A bill to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CRIST (for himself and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 6881. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect from public disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in manifests; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6882. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to include certain passenger ferries as eligible and qualified vessels under Capital Construction Funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 6883. A bill to prohibit certain aircraft associated with the Russian Federation from operating in the national airspace system; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON:

H.R. 6884. A bill to prioritize United States energy independence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Armed Services, Agriculture, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 6885. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for the disclosure and analysis of certain health-related ownership information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 6886. A bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil and petroleum products from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 6887. A bill to prohibit the owner or operator of a port in the United States to enter into a contract with certain entities for operation or management of such port; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 6888. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the treatment of rare diseases and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Ms. PORTER, Mr. AGULLAR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CASE, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana):

H.R. 6889. A bill to mend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 6890. A bill to prohibit Russian vessels from operating in the navigable waters of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. TITUS, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.J. Res. 73. A joint resolution formally apologizing for the nuclear legacy of the United States in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and affirming the importance of free association between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BACON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FALLON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MAST, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. STEUBE):

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United Nations should take immediate procedural actions necessary to amend Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations to remove the Russian Federation as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H. Res. 955. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H. Res. 956. A resolution supporting the people of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms.

NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SIREs, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 957. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 958. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2022 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 6877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 6878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 6879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 6880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRIST:

H.R. 6881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6882.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 6883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. JACKSON:

H.R. 6884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 6885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 6886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 6887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 6888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 6889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 6890.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

Provides Congress with the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Ms. PORTER:

H.J. Res. 73.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 153: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 465: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 534: Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 571: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 620: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 675: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 684: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 977: Ms. JACOBS of California.
H.R. 1026: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1080: Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 1577: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1618: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 1696: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 1735: Ms. SEWELL, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1842: Mr. REED, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1884: Ms. PRESSLEY and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1916: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 1946: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 1956: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 1977: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 1978: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2007: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2012: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2144: Mr. JONES and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2166: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2229: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2269: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2337: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2466: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2558: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 2619: Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 2654: Ms. NORTON and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 2718: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 2721: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2920: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 2924: Mr. LAWSON of Florida and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 2954: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 3085: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3134: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 3203: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 3342: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3348: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 3352: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 3420: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 3446: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 3488: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 3519: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3525: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3602: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 3650: Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 3671: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 3689: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 3832: Mr. MEIJER.

H.R. 3893: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3932: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.R. 3944: Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 3946: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 3962: Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3990: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4003: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 4058: Mr. BACON and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 4066: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 4110: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 4239: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 4315: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 4319: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 4496: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4546: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 4554: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 4634: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 4677: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 4758: Mr. CARSON and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 4766: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 4943: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 4944: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 5048: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 5141: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 5189: Mrs. TORRES of California.

H.R. 5196: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 5209: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 5232: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 5370: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 5430: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 5497: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 5502: Mr. MRVAN, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. DUNN.

H.R. 5526: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5536: Ms. WILD, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 5585: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5607: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 5611: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 5625: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 5721: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5727: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 5754: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 5781: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5787: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 5817: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 5819: Mr. SOTO and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 5915: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 6056: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 6059: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 6066: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 6076: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 6132: Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 6159: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 6161: Mr. TIMMONS and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 6168: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 6205: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 6227: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 6265: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 6375: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 6376: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 6396: Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 6411: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 6422: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 6436: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 6441: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 6448: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 6470: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 6505: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 6515: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 6532: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 6534: Mr. CARL, Mr. MULLIN, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 6536: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. HERN.

H.R. 6543: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 6571: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 6573: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 6585: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 6619: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 6636: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 6659: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. HILL, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 6687: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 6694: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6699: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 6733: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 6748: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 6766: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 6783: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6800: Mr. COMER and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 6824: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 6825: Mr. GARBARINO and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 6828: Mr. BROOKS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BUDD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 6831: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 6840: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 6842: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 6843: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 6853: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. WILD, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BOURDEAUX, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 6858: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. MANN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BOST, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 6860: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 6866: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 6868: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 6872: Mr. CASE and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.J. Res. 3: Mr. NORMAN.

H.J. Res. 46: Mr. PERRY, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. NEHLS.

H.J. Res. 53: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. PALAZZO.

H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H. Res. 148: Ms. BUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H. Res. 174: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. MATSUI.

H. Res. 425: Mr. BACON.

H. Res. 741: Mr. MORELLE.

H. Res. 833: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 881: Mr. YOUNG, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H. Res. 923: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. DELGADO.

H. Res. 940: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H. Res. 952: Ms. BASS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CHU, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CORREA.